

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tommy gets real with Neb. marching band

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TOMMY LEE

Landstuhl busy as troops flood in from Iraq

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Calls for Joe to go echo at Penn St.

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Penn St. coach Joe Paterno, right

Volume 2, No. 217 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004

Military to phase in new payroll system

Reserves will be first to see changes that are expected to cut errors

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Arafat laid to rest

- Egypt hosts state funeral
- Tens of thousands greet coffin
- Bush, Blair see new chance at peace in Middle East

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AP photos

Above: One of two helicopters carrying Palestinian leaders and the remains of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat comes in to land over a massed crowd at Arafat's compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday. Top left: The coffin containing Arafat's remains is lowered to the grave Friday at his burial site at the compound.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Flight 587 memorial: Hundreds of people, many weeping and some holding photos of lost loved ones, stood under umbrellas Friday in the quiet Queens neighborhood where Flight 587 crashed three years ago.

Altogether, 265 people died when American Airlines Flight 587 went down in residential Belle Harbor on Nov. 12, 2001, just after the jet took off from Kennedy Airport on its way to the Dominican Republic.

At the ceremony, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced plans for a permanent memorial about 15 blocks from the crash site.

Peterson trial: Two dismissed jurors and a boat-turned-shrine for Laci Peterson have added this week to the circuslike atmosphere surrounding the murder trial of Scott Peterson.

Deliberations were set to resume Friday after the jury took Veterans Day off. The holiday break came after two straight days of juror missives.

Hurricanes damage: The number of Floridians left homeless by hurricanes is growing by as much as 100 people per day three months after the first of four storms hit the state, a Federal Emergency Management Agency official said.

Thousands of hurricane victims may be still living in damaged homes, with friends and family, in cars and even sheds, said Brad Gair, FEMA deputy coordinating officer in Orlando.

Nearly 3,100 hurricane victims were on a FEMA waiting list for temporary housing assistance as of Thursday.

Federal court nominations: Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Thursday urged Democrats to stop blocking President Bush's federal court nominees and hinted that he may try to change Senate rules to thwart their delaying tactics.

The Democrats' ability to stall White House picks for the federal bench was one of the most contentious issues of Bush's first term. Despite the GOP majority in the Senate, Democrats used the threat of a filibuster to block 10 of Bush's nominees to federal appeals courts. The Senate did confirm more than 200 of the president's choices.

Business

Delta pay cuts: The battered shares of Delta Air Lines Inc. raged 8 percent Friday after its pilots agreed to pay cuts to try to help the ailing carrier escape bankruptcy, but their new contract offers no guarantees for the company's future.

Still, analysts call the pilots' assent to a 32.5 percent pay cut Thursday a linchpin in the struggle to turn Delta around.

The concessions, which begin Dec. 1, will save Delta \$1 billion yearly and were cru-



Cable car memorial: A relative of a cable car victim lays a bouquet during a memorial ceremony Thursday, the fourth anniversary of the cable car accident in the Austrian ski resort of Kaprun, where 155 skiers and snowboarders died in a fire. The memorial, a stone building with 155 glass columns representing each person who died, was unveiled at the base of Kitzsteinhorn mountain, where the victims were headed on Nov. 11, 2000.

cial as Delta attempts to persuade creditors to restructure more than \$20 billion in debt.

World

South Korean navy: The South Korean navy has begun building its first destroyer equipped with a state-of-the-art Aegis system for surveillance, the Defense Ministry said Thursday.

South Korea plans to build three Aegis destroyers by 2012 to boost its defense against communist North Korea.

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. started building the first 7,000-ton class "KDX-III" destroyer, the navy said in a statement. The navy hopes to deploy the warship by 2008.

Lindh murder trial: Prosecutors on Friday told a panel of Supreme Court judges that there was a "considerable agreement" among medical experts that the man who confessed to killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh is not suffering from serious mental illness, adding he should be in prison, not in a psychiatric hospital.

In his final arguments in the three-day hearings on whether Mijailo Mijailovic is well enough to serve prison time, Nils Rekke, the director of the Public Prosecution Authority, said that the 25-year-old's murder conviction and original prison sentence should stand.

Convicted terrorist freed: A Jordanian who was sentenced to four years in prison for helping plan attacks in Germany by a network headed by Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has been granted early release, a German court said Friday.

Shadi Abdelrah, 28, was sentenced last November by a court in Duesseldorf.

He has now served more than half of that time, including the time he spent in custody awaiting trial. While in prison, he served as

a government witness in several German terror trials, including that of his alleged co-plotters in the German cell of the Al Tawhid group.

Georgia elections: Thousands of supporters of Abkhazia's opposition presidential candidate briefly seized the office of the outgoing president Friday, as tensions again spiked in the breakaway Georgian region nearly six weeks after a disputed — and still unresolved — election.

Demonstrators supporting Sergei Bagapsh, who has claimed victory in the Oct. 3 election, stormed the headquarters of outgoing President Vladislav Ardzinba in the province's main city, Sukhumi, and occupied it for several hours.

New Netherlands legislation: The parliament on Friday asked the government to draft legislation compelling Dutch mosques to employ only imams who have studied Islamic religion in the Netherlands.

The proposal, supported by the government and the opposition, came after a debate in which Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's government was accused of underestimating Islamic terrorism and failing to protect filmmaker Theo van Gogh, who was killed by a suspected Muslim radical on Nov. 2.

Ukraine election: Ukraine's opposition leader and the top contender for the presidency accused the government on Friday of massive election fraud during the hotly contested first round of the country's presidential election.

Viktor Yushchenko defeated Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich by just 0.5 percentage points in the Oct. 31 balloting.

Yushchenko and Yanukovich will face off in a runoff scheduled for Nov. 21 since neither managed to top 50 percent in the first-round vote.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Corrections

■ Due to erroneous information from a source, Stars and Stripes referred to author David McCullough in Thursday editions as "now deceased." McCullough is alive, and his next book will be published in 2005.

■ A photograph of an Iraqi National Guard soldier in Friday's editions had an incorrect credit line. The photo was taken by Steve Liewer of Stars and Stripes.

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U.S., Iraqi forces tighten grip on Fallujah

Reinforcements called to Mosul as insurgency flares in north

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. forces Friday pushed deeper into the last remaining insurgent stronghold in Fallujah, and the Iraqi government rushed massive reinforcements to Mosul, the country's third-largest city, where police lost control in the face of insurgent attacks.

LT Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said U.S. and Iraqi forces now occupy about 80 percent of Fallujah, and clearing operations are continuing to find caches of weapons and ammunition.

Armed militants in Mosul attacked the main headquarters of a key Kurdish political party and assassinated a senior police officer as the governor asked for security forces to stabilize the situation.

Saudi Ahmed, an official with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said an hourlong gun battle broke out Friday between gunmen and the guards at the main headquarters. Guards killed six attackers and captured four others before the rest fled.

On Thursday, guerrillas attacked at least five police stations and political party offices there in what could be a bid to relieve pressure on their allies in Fallujah.

The unrest prompted the government to fire Mosul police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammed Khairi Barhawi, said deputy Gov. Khassour Gouran. The move followed allegations that local officials had been abandoned their positions and in some cases cooperated with insurgents during Thursday's attacks.

Gov. Duraid Kashmoula said Mosul asked the Iraqi government for help in stabilizing the security situation.

"We asked the central government in Baghdad [for reinforcements] and God willing they should arrive today," he said. Kashmoula said he believed "there's infiltration among some [security] apparatuses from the saboteurs."

About 250 National Guardsmen have been sent to Mosul from near Iran, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin, an Iraqi National Guard official in the northern area. More also are being sent from the northern city of Irbil, he said.

In addition, four Iraqi National Guard units were redeployed from bases near Syria, Gouran said. The units are made up of Kurds who used to be in the Kurdish peshmarga militia before being incorporated into the government's security force.

The massive reinforcements indicated the security situation in northern Iraq threatened to spiral out of control.



A U.S. Marine leads a captured Iraqi in the center of Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday.

Gouran also said gunmen tried to storm a food distribution center in the Yarmouk area of Mosul but were forced back by National Guardsmen and security guards. The gunmen were trying to destroy election registration cards held at the center, Gouran said.

The city's anti-crime unit chief, police Brigadier Mowaffaq Mohammed Dahham, was gunned down near his house, which then was burned down, police officials said on condition of anonymity.

Samarra's police chief, Taleb Shamel, told The Associated Press that he, too, was fired. There was no confirmation from the Iraqi government in Baghdad because offices were closed Friday, the Muslim day of rest and worship.

Army and Marine units moved to tighten their security cordon around the besieged city of Fallujah, backed by FA-18s and AC-130s fighters.

The largest pocket of remaining resistance fighters were cornered Friday in the city's southwest as airstrikes and strafing runs continued.

"The rout is on," said a 1st Cavalry Division officer. "It won't be long now."

Iraqi forces are charged with searching every building in Fallujah, working from north to south, the military said.

In the city's north, U.S. forces report roving squads of between three and five militants shooting small-arms fire and moving easily through narrow alleyways. Troops are finding numerous weapons caches, the military said.

Time magazine Baghdad bureau chief Michael Weir said in an interview that troops of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment who spearheaded the first push into the city early Monday found entire houses that were body-trapped.

Fighting was so fierce that, on one occasion, U.S. troops fought insurgents from room to room, just a few feet away from each other in the same house.

Since the offensive started early Monday, 22 American troops have been killed and about 170 wounded, of which 40 returned to battle, Sattler said. About 600 insurgents have been killed, the military said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,155 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 877 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was not updated Thursday because of the Veterans Day holiday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,017 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 778 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Michael Ottolini, 45, Sebastopol, Calif.; killed Wednesday when explosive detonated near his vehicle in Balad, Iraq; assigned to the California National Guard, 57th Engineer Battalion, Petaluma, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Todd R. Babbitt, 24, Uvalde, Texas; killed Tuesday when his patrol was attacked in Baghdad; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. John B. Trotter, 25, Marble Falls, Texas; killed Tuesday in a small arms attack in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howe, South Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell, 38, West Bend, Wis.; killed Tuesday in a small arms attack in Fallujah, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserves, 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry Regiment, Fraser, Mich.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Russell L. Shay, 28, Humble, Texas; killed Tuesday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Lanny D. Wells, 29, Vandergrift, Pa.; killed Tuesday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Killed Tuesday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Juan E. Segura, 26, Homestead, Fla.

■ Marine Cpl. William C. James, 24, Huntington Beach, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas D. Larson, 19, Wheaton, Ill.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan R. Wood, 19, Kirkland, Wash.

Alleged al-Zarqawi tape encourages fighters

BY SARAH EL DEEB

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — An audiotape purportedly made by al-Qaida-linked terror suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi encouraged his fighters in Fallujah and said victory was near.

The tape surfaced Friday on an Internet site known as a clearinghouse for militant Muslim content. Its authenticity could not be confirmed.

"As for you heroes of Islam in Fallujah, praise for your Jihad, praise for your nation, praise for your religion. [Have] one hour's patience, and then you will see the results," the speaker said after identifying himself as al-Zarqawi.

"Rejoice, my nation. There is no doubt that God's victory is on the horizon," the speaker said, adding a challenge to "the

Americans to show the truth of what goes on in the battleground."

The speaker also said Kurds and Shiites serving with the Iraqi forces have "sold their religion" and claimed the U.S.-Iraqi offensive in Fallujah had been blessed "by the infidel's imam," Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Al-Sistani, the leading Shiite cleric in Iraq, has issued no public statement on the Fallujah fighting. His silence is resented by radical Sunnis, who expected him to condemn the assault on the city.

The voice on the tape sounded like that on earlier tapes attributed to al-Zarqawi. The statement was peppered with verses from the Quran and poetry, typical of recordings linked to al-Zarqawi.

The statement appeared as American and Iraqi soldiers pushed deeper into the

southern reaches of Fallujah, cornering militants being backed into smaller pockets of the city, on the fourth day of an offensive launched in part to clear out militants linked to the Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi.

His followers have beheaded at least six hostages: three Americans, a Briton, a Japanese and a South Korean. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for al-Zarqawi's capture or killing — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

The link to the five-minute tape was posted by an individual who signed himself Abu Maysarah al-Iraqi, known as the media coordinator of al-Zarqawi's group, al-Qaida's Jihad in Iraq.

In an unusual written introduction, al-Iraqi said the recording was "short and hasty" because of the "grave" circumstances. A longer statement would follow in which al-Qaida strategy would be outlined, al-Iraqi said.

Vilseck grieves over loss of NCO

2nd Battalion command sgt. maj. dies in small-arms fire combat in Iraq

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

A memorial service for Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Vilseck Chapel on Rose Barracks.

Faulkenburg, 45, died Tuesday in Fallujah, Iraq, when he came under small-arms fire while conducting combat operations, according to news reports.

Faulkenburg, of Huntingburg, Ind., was active in the Vilseck community, where friends and family members were grieving,

said Maj. Brian Maddox, executive officer for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's rear detachment.

The detachment has provided mental health counselors to help community members deal with his death. Three counselors were available to talk to people at a Family Readiness Group meeting held after the community learned of Faulkenburg's death.

"People obviously were shocked," Maddox said. "I had to make a lot of phone calls. There was a lot of sadness."

The community also is rallying around Faulkenburg's family, he

said. Officials at Vilseck High School, where Faulkenburg's daughters attend, activated its crisis management team to help students cope with the loss.

"They let the teachers know and then sent down counselors to talk to the students. It was done tastefully and



Faulkenburg

professionally," Maddox said.

Maddox didn't have details about the battle in which Faulkenburg died. However, he said he wasn't surprised that the battalion's highest-ranking NCO was with his soldiers in the heat of battle.

"I knew he was a very active sergeant major," Maddox said. "He was always out there checking on his soldiers, talking to them and taking care of them."

Faulkenburg is survived by his wife, Tonya, and daughters April, Jenna Clifton and Katherine Clifton.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.estrines.osd.mil

10 contractors injured

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Ten contractors were injured Thursday evening when ordinance fired from beyond the base perimeter slammed into an occupied building, said U.S. Army Maj. Richard Spiegel, spokesman for the 13th Corps Support Command.

The 10 people were working inside the building when it was hit at 8:34 p.m. The building is not being identified for security reasons, Spiegel said. It was still being used for its intended purpose Friday morning.

As of midday Friday, there was no indication whether the ordinance used was from a mortar or rocket launcher, the two weapons used almost daily by insurgents to attack the base, usually with no damage or casualties.

The U.S. military responded to the attack, but there was no word if the response had any effect.

From staff reports



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

A soldier salutes a memorial to Sgt. Charles Webb, a member of the 82nd Engineers Battalion, who was killed Nov. 3 by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. A memorial service was held Wednesday at the Warner Barracks chapel in Bamberg, Germany.

Bamberg bids farewell to soldier killed in Iraq

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany — The Warner Barracks community paid its final respects Wednesday to an 82nd Engineer Battalion soldier killed by an explosion from a makeshift bomb in Baghdad.

Sgt. Charles Webb, 22, died Nov. 3 at the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad from wounds sustained in the explosion earlier in the day. Webb had received a Purple Heart after another makeshift bomb explosion wounded him in October.

In a memorial service last week in Iraq, Webb's leaders said

he possessed a great sense of humor and great leadership.

"He was gifted with a great sense of humor and a passion for the mission and his fellow soldiers," according to remarks from Capt. Alexander Bullock, Company A commander in Iraq. Bullock's remarks were read by Capt. Jon Drake, the bat-



Webb

talion's rear detachment commander, during Wednesday's service.

"But his leadership stands out to me, the kind of leadership that makes all the men around him want to do the right thing, all the time," Bullock had written.

Webb was devoted to standing up for the things he believed in, Bullock wrote. "He lived and served and fought and sweated for the things he believed in; his family, his country," he wrote. "But I believe above all, he lived for his friends and comrades, his daily life devoted to them and his family."

Although Webb found humor in

every situation, he took his missions seriously, said Company A 1st Sgt. Christopher Rafferty, also in remarks from the memorial service in Iraq.

"As a soldier and a leader, he was one of the most professional and capable men you've ever met — a true warrior through and through," Rafferty said.

"I can't tell you what a privilege it's been to have known him as a man and serve with him as a comrade. He is my hero."

Webb is survived by his wife, Stephanie, parents, Barbara and Conley, and two sisters.

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Rebels warn of possible attack on Fifth Fleet

Stars and Stripes

A message posted on an Islamic Web site claims that "suicide attacks" will be launched against Americans in Bahrain, including the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters, the Associated Press reported on Thursday.

The statement claims to be from the Bahrain Branch of Ansar al-Islam, according to the report. The radical Islamist organization consists of Iraqi Kurds and Arabs who want to create an independent Islamic state in Iraq.

The U.S. State Department has listed it as a terrorist group with between 700 and 1,000 members. Al-Qaida is suspected of funding and supporting the group.

The Web statement urged "believers" to avoid the U.S. Embassy, the area near the ambassador's residence, hotels and clubs, "obscene commercial complexes," oil pipeline and the University of Bahrain as well 5th Fleet headquarters. "We also renew our loyalty for the great Islamic leader Osama bin Laden, and we are walking on the path of jihad," the statement added.

The authenticity of the statement could not be determined.

The U.S. military evacuated about 1,000 family members from Bahrain in mid-July because of terrorism concerns. The Pentagon has made tours of duty to the small Middle East country an "unaccompanied tour," which means family members can no longer accompany active-duty personnel to Bahrain.

The Navy's 5th Fleet oversees American warships and submarines operating in the Middle East region. Messages to the headquarters staff on Friday were not returned before deadline.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



A U.S. Marine wounded in Fallujah is rushed to a helicopter from a military hospital Wednesday in Baghdad to transfer for evacuation to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

Influx of Iraq wounded keeping Landstuhl busy

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

More than 200 wounded troops have arrived at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany from Iraq within the past three days, medical officials said.

The majority of the injuries are a result of the fighting in Fallujah, where American and Iraqi government troops trying to subdue insurgents in the city have come under heavy sniper fire, according to news reports.

Lt. Col. Richard Jordan, a physician at the hospital's Deployed Warrior Center, was quoted by The Associated Press as saying the majority of injuries were "significant, but not major."

Incident wounded are assessed at the center after their six-hour plane trip from the Middle East.

Maria Shaw, an LRAMC spokeswoman, said most injuries are from blasts, burns or gunshot wounds.

However, there were several intensive-care cases involving brain or spinal injuries or traumatic amputation of limbs, Jordan said.

The rest of the wounded are receiving general and orthopedic surgeries, Shaw added.

The majority of the injuries are a result of the fighting in Fallujah.

The medical center has stepped up its capacity load by adding 10 beds to the intensive care unit, now making 28 slots available, as well as increasing the medical/surgical ward by 40 beds, allowing for about 200 patients, Shaw said.

She said the wounded will be staying at Landstuhl long enough

to become stable and then will either be moving to stateside facilities or back downrange, if well enough.

"We have constant movement of patients coming in and out," Shaw said. "We're very busy."

Shaw said the change in environment is working wonders for the injured troops.

"The patients are in good spirits. Their attitude is upbeat and they're doing well," she said.

"Coming to the facility has made them a whole lot more confident," Jordan said.

Jordan said the staff was coping well with the heavy work load, the AP reported.

"We have had some people calling and volunteering to come in from other bases to help out," Jordan said.

Shaw said Army and hospital officials will issue a formal update on the wounded by Sunday and patients will be available for comment by Monday.

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More reports of prison abuse at Gitmo emerging

BY CAROL ROSENBERG

Knight Ridder Newspapers

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Three more U.S. soldiers have been punished for mistreating inmates at the prison here, among them an Army officer who mishandled the case of a guard who threw a solvent on a detainee, the military said Thursday.

At least one case occurred, but was not reported, during an independent investigation of the scope of detainee abuses worldwide for Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

In that case, a private first class threw a cleaning solvent on a detainee at the Camp Delta prison in January. He left the island on a regular rotation and was at Fort Dix, N.J., when he was brought back for due discipline, said the camp's superintendent, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mendez.

The soldier was demoted to private in June, reassigned to new duties and fined \$300. His company commander, an Army captain, was given a letter of reprimand "for failing to properly investigate the incident," said Lt. Col. Leon Sumpter, spokesman for detainee operations.

The Army captain, responsible for roughly 140 military police, is the highest ranking officer to be disciplined here in a detainee mistreatment episode so far. "He didn't take immediate action," Sumpter said. "That's why he was accused of dereliction of duty. He should've taken corrective action immediately."

Sumpter did not know at what date between January and June the abuse was uncovered.

In the other case, a sergeant was busted down to specialist, reassigned and fined \$500 for slugging a captive who spit on him and tried to bite him last month.

Army Col. Bryce Girskey, the Camp Delta wardens, second sergeant gave the captive "a fat lip" in a struggle to subdue him, exceeding "appropriate levels of force."

The military disclosed the cases in the same week that a Sudanese captive alleged in a lawsuit that he was subjected to abuse at Guantanamo, including sexual humiliation and brutal interrogation.

Judge rules military trials must cease

BY CAROL D. LEONNIG

AND JOHN MINTZ

The Washington Post

The special trials established to determine the guilt or innocence of prisoners at the U.S. military prison in Cuba are unlawful and cannot continue in their current form, a federal judge ruled.

In a setback for the Bush administration, U.S. District Judge James Robertson found that detainees at the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, may be prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions and therefore entitled to the protections of international and military law — which the government has declined to grant them.

The decision came in a lawsuit filed by the first alleged al-Qaida member facing trial before what the government calls "military commissions." The Bush administration denounced the ruling as wrongly giving special rights to terrorists and announced that it will ask a higher court for an emergency stay and reversal of Robertson's decision.

Military officials at Guantanamo immediately halted commission proceedings in light of the ruling.

What is unique about the allegations is the suit — filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Washington by Ibrahim al Qosbi, 44 — is that he was held for four months in isolation and had contact only with his Air Force lawyer and guards, meaning he could not have been influencing the reports of abuses that arose out of the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Records: U.S. ambassador intervened in Halliburton contract

BY LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait demanded last year that Halliburton Co. retain a Kuwaiti subcontractor favored by Kuwait's government, an apparent contradiction of Bush administration assurances of a hands-off policy toward the company once headed by Dick Cheney.

Administration officials repeatedly have asserted that only career government contracting officers got involved in contracting matters involving Halliburton.

State Department records made public Wednesday showed that then-ambassador Richard Jones sent an e-mail last Decem-

ber saying Halliburton officials needed to "get off their butts and conclude deals" that would keep Alattania as the sole company supplying gasoline for Iraq. The Kuwaiti firm was a subcontractor to KBR, a Halliburton subsidiary.

A separate Army document showed that the career contracting official overseeing the fuel purchase-and-delivery contract was demanding competition for Alattania's work.

The Army's contract with Halliburton and the Kuwaiti firm ended earlier this year when the Defense Department gave the gasoline contract to a Pentagon agency that supplies U.S. forces with fuel.

During the presidential campaign, Demo-

crat John Kerry said the Bush administration showed favoritism in giving Halliburton noncompetitive contracts in Iraq and elsewhere. Vice President Cheney, chairman and CEO of Halliburton before he became Bush's running mate in 2000, has denied any involvement in contract decisions.

With Iraq experiencing a gas shortage last year, U.S. officials gave Halliburton the job of obtaining fuel in Kuwait and delivering it to Iraq. The work became part of Halliburton's existing \$2.5 billion no-bid work to restore Iraq's oil industry.

On May 4, 2003, Halliburton asked three Kuwaiti companies to bid. The next day, Halliburton, through its KBR subsidiary, placed its first order with Alattania.

Jones said in his e-mail that he wanted "a

deal done with Alattania within 24 hours and don't take any excuses." The document, turned over to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., by the State Department, did not disclose to whom Jones' message was directed.

State Department spokesman Kurtis Cooper said Jones' e-mail was sent in his capacity as deputy administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S. entity that ran Iraq after the invasion. Jones "reflected the growing frustration felt by CPA officials over the problem of insuring delivery of badly needed fuel for Iraqi civilians," Cooper said.

State Department officials never "participated in decision-making regarding the contracts," Cooper added. Jones is a career State Department employee.

Air Force assault cascades over Fallujah

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — The skies over Fallujah are so crowded with U.S. military aircraft that they are layered in stacks above the city, from low-flying helicopters and swooping attack jets to a jet-powered unmanned spy drone that flies above 60,000 feet.

Much of the focus has been on the massive U.S. ground assault to reclaim the insurgent stronghold, but the complex air war is an indication of the effort and equipment the United States has invested in winning the battle for Fallujah.

No fewer than 20 types of aircraft have been thrown into the fight, including 10 fixed-wing planes, three types of helicopters and seven kinds of unmanned drones.

"We call it the wedding cake. It's layered all the way up," said Air Force Lt. Col. David Staven, who leads the ground targeting effort on a U.S. base outside Fallujah.

Much of the air war is being directed by 10 teams of ground controllers, who moved into the city with Army and Marine fighters. The controllers call down bombing raids or rocket attacks on insurgent positions in the city, said Staven, who leads the 9th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron.

"You take out the threat from the air so you don't have to get soldiers into the building to clear it on foot," said Staven. "It's better to take the enemy out from a distance than to go face to face with him."

American warplanes relentlessly pounded Fallujah over the past



A three-man team of U.S. Air Force air controllers coordinates bombing raids from a U.S. base outside of Fallujah, Iraq, on Wednesday. From left are Master Sgt. Corey Johnson, 38, of Slidell, La., a forward air controller; Airman First Class Jacob Echols, 20, of Hamilton, Texas; and Lt. Col. David Staven, 43, of Great Falls, Montana. Staven, who leads the ground targeting effort, heads the Air Force's 9th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron.

three days, pouring cannon fire, rockets and bombs onto the city, sometimes just blocks ahead of advancing U.S. troops.

A pair of AC-130 gunships fired their entire arsenal of ammunition on Fallujah during Monday night's assault — launching dozens of 105 mm shells, hundreds of

25 mm rounds and more than a hundred 40 mm rounds.

"They'd just walk rounds down the street in front of the Bradley teams," said Staven, 43, of Great Falls, Mont. "They sent two gunships home with no rounds left."

On Wednesday, an Apache gunship sank five boats in the Euphrates

River that the military said were used to resupply guerrillas with rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells.

The front line strikes are directed by Air Force or Marine tactical air control teams, who carry computers and laser target designator gear in backpacks, climbing

to rooftops of Fallujah and pointing out targets for Air Force, Marine and Navy attack jets.

The teams' laptop computers allow them to glean targeting coordinates from live video transmissions from unmanned spy planes dawning above Fallujah.

Some teams are paired with Army or Navy special forces teams or snipers, working on the front lines and calling airstrikes within two blocks of their own positions.

The crowded airspace meant that attack jets bombarding the city Wednesday had a three-minute window to scream down and demolish targets — and then clear out — before another followed on its tail.

Strike jets fly in high-altitude "holding areas" until they are given bombing coordinates, Staven said. U.S. warplanes bombing the city include Marine F-18s and AV-8 Harriers.

The city also is being pummeled by Army Apache and Kiowa helicopters and Marine Super Cobra gunships, as well as the unmanned Predator spy plane, armed with Hellfire missiles.

There are also a slew of unmanned spy planes — including the Hunters and Pioneers — that relay targeting imagery to controllers, as well as a manned Air Force Joint STARS craft monitoring ground traffic and an observation plane that the military requested be unidentified.

This is how we're controlling the air war," Staven said, pointing to a bank of five computer screens in the dusty, crowded nerve center of the 1st Cavalry Division's base.

Troops try to snag insurgents by turning back fleeing men

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — Hundreds of men trying to flee the assault on Fallujah have been turned back by U.S. troops following orders to allow only women, children and the elderly to leave.

The military says it has received reports warning that insurgents will drop their weapons and mingle with refugees to avoid being killed or captured by advancing American troops.

As it believes many of Fallujah's men are guerrilla fighters, it has instructed U.S. troops to turn back all males ages 15 to 55.

"We assume they'll go home and just wait out the storm or find a place that's safe," one 1st Cavalry Division officer, who declined to be named, said Thursday.

Army Col. Michael Formica, who leads forces isolating Fallujah, admits the rule sounds "calculus." But he insists it's key to the mission's success.

"Tell them, 'Stay in your houses, stay away from windows and stay off the roof and you'll live through Fallujah,'" Formica, of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Bri-



An Iraqi woman gestures as she tries to flee the fighting in the center of Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday.

gade, told his battalion commanders in a radio conference call Wednesday night.

Many of Fallujah's 200,000 to 300,000 residents fled the city before the assault, at which time 1,200 to 3,000 fighters were believed in militant strongholds.

Later, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi imposed a 24-hour curfew on Fallujah and ordered roads in the area closed, providing the legal background for the U.S. blockade.

Troops have cut off all roads and bridges leading out of the

city. Relatively few residents have sought to get through, but officers here say they fear a larger exodus.

On Wednesday, a crowd of 225 people sought south out of Fallujah toward the blocking positions of the Marines' 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion. The Marines let 25 women and children pass but separated the 200 military-age men and forced them to walk back into Fallujah.

"There is nothing that distinguishes an insurgent from a civilian," the 1st Cavalry officer said. "If they're not carrying a weapon, you can't tell who's who."

Also Wednesday, troops halted two ambulances leaving Fallujah and found 57 refugees packed inside. Most were women and children who were allowed to leave. Smaller bands of refugees have also turned up at U.S. roadblocks, some allowed to pass and others turned back.

Single refugees have made their way out of the city by swimming across the broad Euphrates River or sneaking out across desert paths, military officials said.

On Wednesday and Thursday, American troops sunk boats being used to ferry people — and in some cases, rebel arms — across the river.

The ongoing U.S. advance is bottling up Fallujah's insurgents — and others fleeing the fighting — in the southern section of the city, where U.S. forces were moving Thursday night.

Most of the remaining attacks by insurgents inside Fallujah have been on Marines blocking the roads and bridges leaving the city, reports show. Marines have returned fire, killing numerous insurgents trying to escape, officers here said.

The military estimates 600 insurgents have already been killed, about half the total of guerrillas in the city.

Fallujah has been under relentless aerial and artillery bombardment and without electricity since Monday. Reports have said residents are running low on food. An officer here who it was likely that those who stay in their homes would live through the assault, but agreed the city was a risky and frightening place to live.

Painting the fallen

The Associated Press

KENTFIELD, Calif. — Art students and faculty at the College of Marin hope to make an indelible impression by painting the portraits of each U.S. soldier killed in the Iraq war.

They plan to put at least 1,000 portraits — one for every American who died between the start of the war and early September — on view in the college's art gallery this month for an exhibit called "Never to Forget: Faces of the Fallen."

The project was the inspiration of Chester Arnold, an art instructor who was grief-stricken when he saw a newspaper photo gallery of the American casualties in Iraq published when the death toll passed the 1,000 mark on Sept. 8.

After he asked his students in a life painting class if they wanted to use the mug shots of the soldiers for a memorial, "people jumped to volunteer, to do 10, 20, 40 faces," Arnold told the Marin Independent Journal.

He asked students as they worked on the 5-by-7-inch canvases to keep to a minimalist palette of either blue, brown and white or just black and white to keep the focus on the subject's face.



Portraits of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq are shown at the College of Marin Fine Arts Department on Thursday in Kenfield, Calif. Chester Arnold, an art teacher at the school, is spearheading a project to paint the portraits of all U.S. soldiers who have died in the Iraq war. The finished art work, "Never to Forget: Faces of the Fallen," will go on display Nov. 22-Dec. 17 at the college's Fine Art Gallery.

Arnold said the project is not meant to convey a pro-war or anti-war message. "Whether you're a flag-waving patriot or a protester, the show can be taken any way based on what you bring to it," he said. "I would hope that it raises the conversation, 'What does this all mean?'"

Ellis Hoyer, a student who painted 32 portraits, said the project at the campus north of San Francisco has made the cost of the war real to her.

"By painting these faces, it isn't a number anymore. These are people we have sat with and looked at ... and [tried to capture] a sweetness in their eyes, a pensiveness in their lips," she said.

Arnold said students will continue to paint portraits and hang them in the gallery while the show is open through Dec. 17. Each artist eventually will send the portraits to the dead soldiers' families.

Driver of two French journalists still alive

By EDWARD HARRIS
The Associated Press

FALLUJAH — A Syrian man found handcuffed in a house in Fallujah is the driver who was taken hostage with two French journalists by militants in August, U.S. military officials said Friday.

Mohammed al-Joundi, discovered late Thursday by U.S. Marines sweeping through the city, told military officials he had been separated from the journalists about a month ago, Marine Capt. Ed Bitanga said.

There have been no signs of journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, a U.S. military spokesman said. The trio disappeared Aug. 20 on a trip to the holy city of Najaf.

"We can confirm that the driver of the two French hostages has been rescued," the spokesman said.

A militant group calling itself "the Islamic Army in Iraq" claimed to hold the men and demanded that France revoke a new law banning Islamic head scarves from state schools.

The former hostage told officials the three were ambushed by men in two cars as they were heading to cover Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

At one point, al-Joundi was blindfolded and interrogated by

his captors in a room where he saw a black flag with crossed swords, Bitanga said.

The driver also said he saw several other hostages being held, including two Czech nationals — one of whom was injured. He did not specify how many others he saw.

The hostage said he doesn't know what happened to the two Frenchmen after he was separated from them, Bitanga said.

The French government has made extensive efforts to obtain the release of Chesnot, 37, of Radio France Internationale, and Malbrunot, 41, of the daily newspaper Le Figaro.

On Wednesday, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said he had "reassuring" news about the health of two French hostages in Iraq, saying he believed they were being held in the Sunni Triangle that runs north and west from Baghdad, where the insurgency is strongest. The area includes Fallujah.

The hostage told the military he was held until early this week, when his kidnappers released him a day before the invasion and told him to swim across the Euphrates River to escape. The hostage told military officials he could not swim so he stayed in the location until Marines found him.

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Citizenship acquired



Petty Officer 2nd Class Hugston Brooks of Liberia hugs Vicki Dronet Alba, U.S. citizenship manager for the U.S. Navy, after a naturalization ceremony held aboard the decommissioned aircraft carrier USS Midway on Thursday in San Diego. Eighty sailors and Marines from 25 countries, including Brooks, were granted citizenship in a ceremony held to commemorate Veterans Day.

Panel urges more funds for Gulf War illnesses

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Parting company with the findings of a Clinton administration panel on Gulf War illnesses, a new study concludes more must be learned about the effects of toxic substances on those who fought there.

The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses urges that up to \$60 million be spent over the next four years to monitor and research the health of Gulf War veterans and their children. The panel

insisted itself on the earlier body that attributed a series of mysterious illnesses to stress under conditions of warfare. Scientists are coming close to finding a treatment, the panel said in its report, but it also said researchers need substantially more government financial assistance.

The review committee that Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi formed concluded that "the goal of understanding and treating Gulf War veterans' illnesses is within reach" because of recent research breakthroughs. But "additional progress in addressing Gulf War veterans' illnesses is not likely to come from a haphazard mix of studies," the panel said.

Hundreds of thousands of veterans of the 1991 Gulf War have experienced undiagnosed illnesses they believe are linked to the war, according to Congress' auditing arm. These ailments include chronic fatigue, loss of muscle control, diarrhea, migraines, dizziness, memory problems and loss of balance.

Principi's panel found that more recent studies suggest the veterans' illnesses are neurological and apparently are linked to exposure to neurotoxins such as the nerve gas sarin, the anti-nerve gas drug pyridostigmine bromide and pesticides that affect the nervous system. "Research studies conducted

since the war have consistently indicated that psychiatric illness, combat experience or other deployment-related stressors do not explain Gulf War veterans' illnesses in the large majority of ill veterans," the review committee said.

The Pentagon has estimated that about 100,000 soldiers were exposed to nerve gas when Iraqi weapons caches were destroyed, although congressional auditors have questioned the Defense Department's estimates. The Pentagon also has said some soldiers may have been overexposed to pesticides.

The committee said the VA should allocate \$15 million in each of the next four years for a Gulf War illness research program.

Principi had announced in 2002 that \$20 million would be available for research this year. But during the summer, the panel found that little of that had been spent and some of what was spent to studies investigating stress-related causes.

The research makes it a very reasonable possibility that this Gulf War illness is not attributable simply to stress of troops that were deployed," said Paul Greengard, who won the Nobel Prize for work discovering the brain chemicals involved in Parkinson's disease, a nerve disorder.

Greengard is the founder of Intracellular Therapies, which looks for treatments for central nervous system disorders. He said the company recently began investigating how nerve agents damage the brain.

Greengard has done preliminary work funded by the Army that would apply the research methods he used to investigate Parkinson's to study Gulf War illnesses.

"I think any reasonable person can no longer exclude the possibility that our military personnel deployed in Gulf War I were exposed to toxic chemicals that have produced this very high incidence of illnesses," Greengard said.

Military sets sights on new pay system

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Starting in March, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will phase in a new, more reliable and effective pay system for the military.

Called the Forward Compatible Payroll (FCP), it promises far fewer errors, an easy-to-understand Leave and Earnings Statement for servicemembers, and instantaneous adjustments to pay records.

FCP "should have a huge impact on our efficiency in providing pay services," says Sue Schallenberg, director of what DFAS calls its Military Pay Operations Transition Group.

Phase-in of FCP will begin with the Army Reserve and National Guard in March, followed by the active-duty Army in July, the entire Air Force next November and the Navy Department, with its more complex shipboard environment, in March 2006.

That will mark the end of a problem-plagued pay system developed during the Vietnam War. DFAS officials suggest they're as inclined as servicemembers to say "good riddance."

The current military payroll scheme, called the Defense Joint Military Pay System (DJMS), actually is two systems, one for active duty and another for reserve component forces. The two are compatible only with enormous effort, say DFAS officials.

The reserve system was designed to pay members for weekend drills and two weeks' active duty a year. Relying on it to provide accurate and timely pay for a few hundred thousand mobilized reservists has been difficult, requiring frequent manual intervention which raises the risk of errors.

Indeed, the Government Accountability Office blamed the reserve pay system in part for a plague of pay errors that hit Army Reserve and National Guard members mobilized since 9/11 ground the nation and fought wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. GAO studied a sampling of mobilized units and estimated that more than 90 percent of activated soldiers suffered the frustration of significant errors in pay in 2002 and 2003. DFAS and the Army have taken aggressive measures since to ease the errors.

The current system, DJMS, is written in a programming language developed in the late-1960s. So it is cumbersome, fragile and woefully inadequate to handle recent complex changes to military pay. With DJMS, if Congress approved a new pay feature, like Assignment Incentive Pay, it takes on average 12 to 18 months to automate such payments. Some says, such as medical bonuses, can't be programmed.

"The workforce within DFAS is actually computing and manually manipulating members' pay to make sure that they are getting the right pay," said Schallenberg. FCP will end the need for 95 percent of current "workarounds" for reserve mobilization and new pays, said Schallenberg, and allow DFAS to shift workforce focus from "paper" to rather than after-the-fact corrections.

The process of moving reservists and National Guard members to activated sta-

tus, with all appropriate pay and entitlement changes, "will be as simple as making a single change on the record," she added. Pay specialists no longer will have to re-enter basic information on tax exemptions, marital status, numbers of dependents, allotments or what financial investigations should receive direct deposits of members' pay.

"There will be no redundant data entries like we have today," said Schallenberg.

Also to disappear will be confusing entries on Leave and Earnings Statement, such as the "Save Pay" field where any number of unclaimed entitlements might now be listed. Instead, servicemembers will see a full and clear list of entitlements and the amounts paid, allowing them to better understand and manage their paychecks.

The revised LES "will be very specific... so they won't feel like they have to go to another source to translate," said Schallenberg.

With FCP, pay specialists will work in a friendly Windows-based application versus rigid "green screens" used with DJMS.

DJMS software is so old and inflexible that when states change their tax rates, DJMS has to be reprogrammed, which can take 12 to 18 months. That's why a surprisingly high proportion of servicemembers every year receive corrected W-2s, or Wage and Earning Statements, from DFAS. During the first half of 2004, for example, 2.7 percent of servicemembers received corrected W-2s for their 2003 tax years, so thousands of early tax filers had to file corrected tax returns.

FCP, by contrast, will use existing commercial tax packages that contractors are obligated to keep up-to-date with the latest state tax laws to allow timely recalculations of member tax liabilities. Another benefit to FCP will be round-the-clock pay record updates versus nightly batch updates under DJMS.

"This essentially means records are in a 'pay ready' status at all times," said Schallenberg, whether updated by pay specialists or by members using the Web-based MyPay tool to change addresses, allotments or other pay features. With FCP, reservists activated longer than 30 days will be able to use MyPay to make payroll allocations.

FCP will restore member confidence in their pay system, particularly among those aware of pay problems suffered by mobilized reservists, said Hanneken. It will eliminate system challenges that led to operations problems, she added, and ultimately benefit all servicemembers.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111. E-mail: militaryupdate@mc.com www.militaryupdate.com

The current pay system's programming language, developed in the late-1960s, is cumbersome, fragile and woefully inadequate to handle recent complex changes to military pay.

"Any reasonable person can no longer exclude the possibility that our military personnel deployed in Gulf War I were exposed to toxic chemicals that have produced this very high incidence of illnesses."

Paul Greengard

Founder of Intracellular Therapies

IN THE STATES

Bush, Blair pledge to work for Mideast peace

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Friday the death of Yasser Arafat provides "a great chance to establish a Palestinian state" and a broader Middle East peace.

At a joint White House news conference, Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged their support for a fresh start at peace. The president said it was up to Palestinians to elect a democratic government and Arafat's successors to allow freedoms to take root.

"We'll hold their feet to the fire to make sure that democracy prevails," he said.

Bush, whose policy in Iraq frayed relations with France, Germany and other traditional allies, also said he intends to travel to Europe as soon as possible after his second inaugural, on Jan. 20.

He said he looked forward to using the "combined strength of Europe and America" to advance freedom.

While Bush coupled his call for a Palestinian state with his unwavering support of Israeli security, Blair stressed the need to bolster Palestinians.

"If we want a viable Palestinian state, we want to make sure the political, the economic and the security infrastructure of that state is shaped and comes into being," the British prime minister said.

The Bush and Blair governments hope a change in Palestinian leadership might open new avenues toward peace.

There was fresh news, too, in Iraq, a chilling reminder of the perilous life of the Mid-



President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair hold a joint news conference in the East Room at the White House on Friday. Blair said, "We are an ally of the United States because we believe in fighting this war on terrorism. ... We share the same objectives, we share the same values."

dle East: Insurgents downed a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter north of Baghdad, wounding three crew members. In their two days of meetings, Blair had hoped to shift Bush's attention from Iraq to the stalled Mideast peace process.

While the president did not commit to a Mideast conference or sending a U.S. envoy

to the region — two items sought by Europeans — he did talk more optimistically about the prospects for a Palestinian state.

"I intend to use the next four years to spend the capital of the United States on such a state," Bush said. "I believe it is in the interests of the world that such a truly free state develop. I know it is in the interest

of the Palestinian people."

Bush dismissed critics of Blair who call the British prime minister a lackey of the United States. "He's plenty capable of making up his own mind" on Iraq and other issues, Bush said.

"When times get tough, he doesn't wilt."

Bush and Blair said the prime minister's motives are pure — protecting the British people.

"We are not fighting the war against terrorism because we are an ally of the United States," Blair said. "We are an ally of the United States because we believe in fighting this war on terrorism. ... We share the same objectives, we share the same values."

Bush opened the news conference by calling Blair "a statesman and a friend" and said U.S.-British relations have never been stronger. He listed accomplishments by the nations' forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He warned that with upcoming Iraqi elections, "the desperation of the killers will grow and the violence could escalate." But he said victory in Iraq would be a blow to terrorists everywhere.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Bush said there was a "new opportunity" for resolving the decades-old stalemate. He put much of the onus on the new Palestinian leadership.

The United States is "looking forward to working with Palestinian leaders who are committed to fighting terrorism and committed to democratic reform," Bush said.

Immune system may aid in creation of new male contraceptive

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Developing a new contraceptive for men may involve prompting an immune reaction to a protein that is produced in the male reproductive system.

The method worked in experiments on male monkeys and could one day supplement condoms and vasectomies, the current methods available to men.

When the immune treatment was stopped, most of the monkeys regained their fertility, researchers reported in Thursday's issue of the journal Science.

"Immunoneutralization for males is a possibility and hopefully will be developed for human use over the next several years," said Dr. Michael O'Rand of the University of North Carolina.

Progress depends on funding for the work and, even with unlimited money, translating the findings into human use could take a decade, said O'Rand, lead researcher on the project.

"This is a proof of principle. It could be adapted for human use with continued development and the appropriate safety-toxicology tests," O'Rand said.

In recent years, researchers have developed some male con-

traceptives, based on hormones, that were designed to suppress sperm production. This work is now in trials.

O'Rand's experiments did not involve hormones. Instead, monkeys were immunized using a form of opsin, a protein produced in the testis and epididymis, the tightly coiled ducts that carry sperm.

Male monkeys that developed a strong immune response to opsin were able to copulate but could not impregnate females, the researchers said.

"We don't understand the exact mechanism yet, but we think the immunoneutralization works by preventing the sperm from freeing itself from the seminal fluid to make its way to the uterus and oviducts to fertilize the egg," O'Rand said.

In the experiments, designed in the United States and carried out in India, seven of the nine males tested developed high antibody levels. Five of the seven recovered fertility once the immunization stopped. They were mixed with opsin about every three weeks to maintain the immunization.

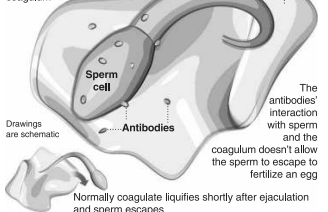
Dr. Patricia Anastasia DeLeon of the University of Delaware said the results were significant and that scientists were lucky to

A male contraceptive without hormones

A recent study indicates the possibility for a new type of male contraceptive. Using monkeys immunized against the protein opsin, the experiment was able to render 78 percent of the subjects infertile, with most later regaining their fertility. Other methods of male contraception have relied on hormones designed to suppress sperm production.

How it is believed to work

Antibodies attach themselves to opsin on the surface of sperm. Opson binds to semenogelin — the predominant protein component of the coagulum



SOURCE: Dr. M.G. O'Rand, University of North Carolina

M. Sherman • AP

get a protein that would produce antibodies.

Normally the body does not produce antibodies against its own proteins, she said. But, DeLeon said, the testis and epididymis are protected by a barrier so the protein never gets into the blood-

stream. So, when opsin was injected into the bloodstream the immune system did not recognize it and produced antibodies.

"I think it's significant because the reversibility is very attractive," said DeLeon, who was not part of the research team.

CBS awaiting findings of panel on Bush Guard report

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — CBS News is still awaiting the conclusion of the independent investigation into its discredited "60 Minutes Wednesday" report on President Bush's National Guard service, a network spokeswoman said Thursday.

The network asked former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and Louis Baccardi, who retired last year as president and chief executive officer of The Associated Press, to examine how the network aired a story it later said it could not vouch for.

"The panel is hard at work and the report will be ready when the panel tells us it's ready," said Sandra Geniesi, CBS News spokeswoman.

Panel members have not publicly discussed their work, including their target date for completion. But they have interviewed several people at CBS News already in piecing together what happened.

The report is expected to go to CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves, and its findings could affect the futures of news division President Andrew Heyward and anchorman Dan Rather, who reported the story.

The panel has insisted that its report be made public after it is submitted to CBS.

Year later, gay marriage still divides U.S.

As supporters celebrate anniversary, opponents encouraged by state constitutional bans

BY KAREN TESTA

The Associated Press

BOSTON — One year ago, the fight for gay marriage rights appeared to be gaining ground. Though dozens of states had passed defense of marriage laws, advocates took heart in state-sanctioned civil unions in Vermont, expanded domestic partnership benefits in California, and a Supreme Court decision striking down the Texas sodomy law.

Then came their most stunning victory: a decision by the highest court in Massachusetts that the state the first to sanction same-sex marriages. The ruling was hailed by supporters as the start of a new era.

But the pendulum swings both ways.

As supporters celebrate the first anniversary of the landmark Massachusetts ruling Nov. 18, opponents' hopes are bolstered by this year's strong election showing, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, joining six others who'd done so earlier. And President Bush has vowed to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

Both sides now say momentum is in their favor.

"I think what we're seeing now is a visible manifestation of the momentum that has been building and will continue to build," said Matt Staver, president of the Liberty Counsel, a conservative, Orlando, Fla.-based law group, which is involved in 31 cases around the nation.

"Backlash simply means that you're making forward progress," said Josh Friedes, spokesman for the Massachusetts Freedom to Marry Coalition. "I think that people who say it suddenly seems like the radical right has momentum on their side; they're not looking at the broad brushstroke of history."

History is often not measured in months or years, but in decades and generations. And both sides know the issue of gay marriage is not one that will be quick-



Julie Goodridge, left, and her spouse Hillary Goodridge cross the street after being married May 17. The Goodridges were the lead plaintiffs in the Massachusetts gay marriage lawsuit. As supporters celebrate the first anniversary of the landmark Massachusetts ruling Nov. 18, opponents' hopes are bolstered by this year's strong election, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments to ban gay marriage.

ly settled in courtrooms or in the court of public opinion.

In April 2001, seven gay and lesbian couples who were denied marriage licenses sued in superior court in Boston to challenge the state's gay marriage ban. Two and a half years later, a deeply divided Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found there was "no rational reason" for such a ban under the state's constitution and ordered the state to start allowing gays to marry six months later.

The decision ignited a wildfire of reaction — from vigilante officials issuing marriage licenses in San Francisco and New York to conservative and religious groups pumping millions of dollars into

efforts to support constitutional bans to politicians calling for removal of "activist judges."

Earlier this year, Massachusetts lawmakers took one step closer to placing a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2006 ballot that would ban gay marriages but allow for Vermont-style civil unions.

It also sparked further legal challenges in Massachusetts, where officials cited a 1913 law — which some say was written to prohibit interracial marriages — to keep out-of-state gay couples from seeking marriage licenses.

Staver said he could feel passions rising as he spoke to people around the country.

"Even though there was a lot of

lawsuits, my feeling was the same-sex marriage movement had moved too fast and it was going to be their Achilles' heel," he said.

Within a week of the Nov. 2 election, lawsuits were filed against the new gay marriage bans in Oklahoma and Georgia. Earlier this year, Louisiana's ban was struck down by a state court that found it improperly dealt with more than one subject by banning same-sex marriage and any legal recognition of common-law relationships, domestic partnerships and civil unions.

Eight of the 11 state bans passed on Election Day include prohibitions of civil unions as well as marriage.

"In any civil rights movement in our nation's history, when a minority makes significant advances toward full citizenship, that is when the forces against them rise up even uglier than they were before," said David Buckel, director of the Lambda Legal Marriage Project.

Not all the news out of the election was bad news for gay-marriage supporters.

In Cincinnati, voters voted to repeal a 1993 law that had banned gay marriage in the city. And in Massachusetts — though a backlash was threatened against lawmakers who supported equal treatment for same-sex couples — none was voted out of office.

In Idaho and North Carolina, voters elected their first openly gay legislators, and an openly gay Hispanic woman was elected county sheriff in Dallas.

Supporters of same-sex recognition are pressing their cases in the courts of at least a half-dozen states, hoping they'll eventually succeed when the case reaches the highest court.

Lawsuits seeking marriage rights or challenging bans on same-sex marriage have been filed in Nebraska, Washington, California, New York, New Jersey and Oregon, the state where the constitutional ban passed by the narrow margin.

Opponents want to capitalize on the backlash and move quickly for a federal constitutional ban. The election loss of Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, who helped scuttle a July vote on an amendment, fosters their hope that lawmakers in Washington will do what they failed to do last session, Staver said.

But Yale law professor William Eskridge, who has written a book about Vermont civil unions, said it would be insanity to move now to change the U.S. Constitution.

"The nation is not at risk on this issue," he said. "We should let Mississippi be Mississippi and Vermont be Vermont, and let's see where we are in another 10 years. At that point, there will be another generation of voters and more experience."

Rev. Falwell forms coalition to guide 'evangelical revolution'

BY HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Seeking to take advantage of the momentum from an election where moral values proved important to voters, the Rev. Jerry Falwell announced Tuesday he has formed a new coalition to guide an "evangelical revolution."

Falwell, a religious broadcaster based in Lynchburg, Va., said the Faith and Values Coalition will be a "21st century resurrection of the Moral Majority," the organization he founded in 1979.

Falwell said he would serve as the coalition's national chairman for four years.

He added that the new group's mission would be to lobby for anti-abortion conservatives to fill openings on the Supreme

"We all, for the first time, began to realize the potential of religious conservatives, particularly evangelicals, when something over 30 million of them went to the polls."

Rev. Jerry Falwell

religious broadcaster based in Lynchburg, Va.

Court and lower courts, a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and the election of another "George Bush-type" conservative in 2008.

"We all, for the first time, began to realize the potential of religious conservatives, particularly evangelicals, when something over 30 million of them went to the polls," he said, noting most supported the presi-

dent and anti-abortion candidates, and voted to approve 11 initiatives across the country banning gay marriage.

Also, a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court allowing gay marriages "helped energize our people," Falwell said.

And when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom began performing gay marriages, it "really caught the attention of people of

faith in this country, and what we have been saying could happen actually happened," he said.

"The timing could not have been better. That, along with the abortion issues and the terrorism issue, helped us to get our people awakened."

While overseeing the coalition, Falwell said he would leave day-to-day operations of Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church — both of which he founded — to his sons Jerry Jr., 42, and Jonathan, 38.

Matthew Staver, founder of the conservative law group Liberty Counsel in Orlando, Fla., will be the coalition's vice chairman. Jonathan Falwell will be its executive director. Theologian Tim LaHaye will be the board chairman.

Research: Vitamin E can increase risk of death

BY JOHN FAUBER

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

NEW ORLEANS — In a blow to the belief that mega antioxidant supplements can prevent disease, people who took a common dose of vitamin E had a moderately higher risk of dying, researchers said Wednesday.

Doctors say the finding should finally resolve years of conflicting information about high doses of the popular supplement, which is taken to prevent a variety of illnesses, including heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

"I think people should have stopped taking it two years ago," said Raymond Gibbons, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist who was not associated with the research.

Gibbons noted that vitamin E can counteract the effects of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs.

"From a scientific standpoint, the question has been answered," he said. "Vitamin E doesn't work."

Vitamin E has had an up and down history over the years with some studies showing a health benefit, others showing no benefit and a few suggesting it can be harmful. In hopes of resolving the matter, researchers with Johns Hopkins University did an extensive review of 19 clinical trials of vitamin E involving nearly 136,000 people. The analysis was presented Wednesday at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions and published online in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The analysis found that as the dose went up, so did the risk of dying.

In nine of 11 trials, daily doses of 400 international units (IU) or more were associated with an increased risk of dying from any cause, compared with those who did not take the supplement.

The average increased risk of dying among those taking 400 IU or more a day was small, about 10 percent more than those who did not take the vitamin. That works out to 39 more deaths per 10,000 people.

And for those who took less than 400 IU a day, there actually was a slight benefit, working out to 16 fewer deaths per 10,000. The benefit became significant in doses of less than 150 IU a day.

The typical person gets about 10 IU in their diet. Earlier federal guidelines had set 1,000 IU as the upper tolerable limit.

"People take antioxidants because they want to live longer," said lead author Edgar Miller, an associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins.

"What we showed is they don't live longer. And it may be of harm."

The researchers acknowledged a few limitations to the analysis.

They said the number of high-dose trials were small and often involved people with chronic diseases, so it may not apply to healthy individuals.

Still, they concluded that taking 400 IU or more should be avoided.

"Any high-dose vitamin supplements should be discouraged until evidence of efficacy is documented from appropriately designed clinical trials," the authors wrote.

CIA officer quits to criticize intelligence

BY KATHERINE
PLEGER SHRAIDER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A senior CIA officer who has become an outspoken critic of the fight on terrorism turned in his resignation this week, citing a desire to speak more freely about problems in the hunt for Osama bin Laden and the debate over intelligence reform.

Current government officials are rarely as vocal as Mike Scheuer, who wrote "Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror." But he called the decision to leave the agency after 22 years "entirely my own."

"I have concluded that there has not been adequate national debate over the nature of the threat posed by Osama bin Laden and the forces he leads and inspires, and the nature and dimensions of intelligence reform needed to address that threat," Scheuer said in a statement sent to reporters Thursday via electronic mail.

Scheuer's CIA assignments included running the bin Laden unit from January 1996 to June 1999. He hopes his experience and view will produce a more substantive debate.

This week, Scheuer ignored agency orders and began granting interviews about shortfalls in the hunt for bin Laden, the findings and recommendations of the Sept. 11 and the intelligence community overall.

During a wide-ranging interview Sunday evening, Scheuer was highly critical of the Sept. 11 Commission's "refusal" to point

fingers at senior government officials whose actions contributed to the attacks. Rather than changing the structure of government, as Congress is considering, he said a signal must be sent that people will be held accountable for their actions.

"No one seems to be capable or inclined to find anyone responsible for 9/11," he said.

Scheuer doesn't think the 9/11 attack could have been stopped, but believes the various commissions that have investigated the attack should have better considered whether the intelligence community was working optimally.

For instance, Scheuer finds flaws with the FBI agents who were sent to the CIA to work with the bin Laden unit under his watch. He said the CIA shared information with the agents, but they didn't take it back to their headquarters. He said they were more interested in "travel overseas" and "war stories."

"They were interested in doing everything but work," he said.

He could think of only limited exceptions.

Scheuer is also critical of how CIA resources and personnel are now being distributed to go after al-Qaida.

Spokespeople at the CIA and the FBI declined to comment.

Even after his resignation, Scheuer must abide by regulations that govern all CIA employees. He won't be able to discuss classified information, and speeches, books and articles on intelligence subjects will have to be cleared by an agency review board.



Bob Fox, right, one of the chief architects of the One Bryant Park Building, and Rick Fedrizzi, council chairman for the U.S. Green Building Council, look over scores of display boards during the national U.S. Green Building Council conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore., on Thursday.

'Green' buildings to provide offices with individual climate control

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — If workers feel a little chilly at their desks in one of the newest skyscrapers under construction in New York City, they'll be able to adjust the temperature with switches tailored to individuals, not entire floors or buildings.

The individual controls, expected to save millions of dollars in operational costs, are among the many new designs being incorporated into so-called "green" buildings, including the One Bryant Park building in the center of Manhattan that will be the new bank of American headquarters.

The building will be a showcase for the U.S. Green Building Council, which is holding its national conference this week in Portland — considered the "greenest" U.S. city by the council.

The council, established in 1993, promotes its "leadership in energy and environmental design" — or LEED — rating system as a voluntary national standard.

Requests for LEED certification have rapidly expanded in the past few years, said council chairman Rick Fedrizzi.

Green technology can reduce costs by millions of dollars over the life of the building but "it doesn't cost a penny more than conventional construction," Fedrizzi said.

The One Bryant Park building, designed by Cook+Fox Architects of New York, will include floor-to-ceiling windows made of translucent insulating glass, a system to capture and reuse rain and wastewater, and roof gardens to reduce heat pollution.

Bob Fox, one of the chief architects, said the big savings could be in health care.

Sunlight for every level and office provides a psychological benefit while filtered ventilation built into floors instead of ceilings will provide individual temperature control and greatly reduce interior air pollution to improve overall health.

Construction and interior materials such as carpeting and plastic components will not contain high levels of volatile organic compounds — the trace amounts of potentially cancer-causing chemicals that help create the "new car smell" — typically found in such materials in the past, Fox said.

The building's operational costs are estimated at \$375 per square foot.

But if each worker increases productivity by just 1 percent — about five minutes a day — because of improved health and mood, it results in huge savings over time, Fox said.

The actual savings likely will approach 5 percent to 10 percent, he said, "because it will dramatically decrease sick days and increase productivity."

N.C. executes man for killing woman in 1992

RALEIGH, N.C. — A man whose death sentence for impulsively killing a woman during a 1992 robbery was opposed even by some capital punishment supporters was executed by lethal injection Friday.

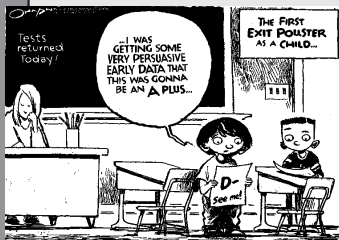
Frank Chandler, 32, was put to death at Central Prison for killing 90-year-old Doris Poore, who surprised him when he broke into her house on a misguided search for drugs.

Chandler was pronounced dead at 2:13 a.m., a Corrections Department spokesman said.

From The Associated Press

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JACK OHMAN/Tribune Media Services



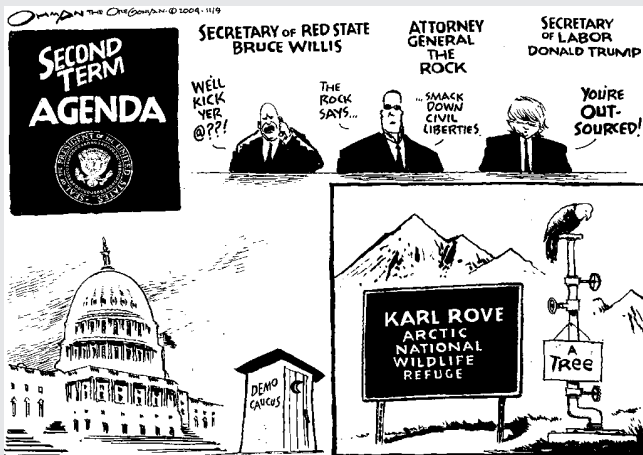
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JACK OHMAN/Tribune Media Services

IN THE WORLD

Arafat laid to rest at Ramallah compound

Controversial PLO leader gets state funeral in Egypt, burial in West Bank

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat was laid to rest in a marble-and-stone grave Friday after his flag-draped coffin was borne through a sea of emotional Palestinians who swarmed the helicopter that brought him from a state funeral in Egypt.

Police fired wildly into the air to keep back the surging crowd at the West Bank compound known as the Muqata, where Arafat spent his last years as a virtual prisoner.

After Arafat's body was lowered into the ground, Muslim clerics read Quranic verses and the late leader's bodyguards wept and embraced each other.

Frantic mourners surged toward the tomb, trampling the olive tree saplings that were planted around the grave according to Islamic tradition. One policeman knelt on the marble and kissed the tombstone.

Earlier, officials tried for 25 minutes to open the helicopter door to remove the coffin onto a jeep that had plowed through the crowd to clear a path.

As the coffin was carried toward the grave, police jumped on top of it, waved their arms and flashed the victory sign. People chanted, "With our blood and our soul we will redeem you, Yasser Arafat!"

Stretchers carried away two people who were trampled in the melee.

Mahmoud Abbas, the new head of the PLO, and Omar Suleiman, Egypt's director of intelligence, tried to emerge from the helicopter but were kept back by the huge, chaotic crowd.

Under the crush of screaming mourners, plans were hastily scrapped for a state ceremony with Palestinian officials lining past his coffin.

"It is not what we expected," said Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat, who traveled in the Egyptian military helicopter with Arafat's coffin. "At the same time, we had to do the burial before sunset Islamic tradition... I expected much better, more organized, but things got out of hand, unfortunately."

The failure of police to control the pandemonium augured poorly for Palestinian hopes to maintain calm and order in the wake of Arafat's death.

Hours earlier, mourners had burst through gates of the Muqata and climbed over the walls of the compound, thwarting attempts by armed police to hold them back. Police scrambled to keep them off the landing pad.

The 75-year-old Arafat, who led the Palestinians for four decades, died Thursday at a Paris hospital from an undisclosed illness that had plunged him into a weeklong coma. He had spent his final three years confined to his headquarters, never leaving out of fear the Israelis would not allow him back.

Israeli police, ordered to stay on the sidelines of the burial, were on their highest state of alert and canceled all leaves, worried that the prayers for the last Friday of the



Yasser Arafat's coffin is carried through a crowd of Palestinian mourners Friday before being lowered into a grave at his compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Window for peace open, but for how long?

BY STEVEN GUTKIN
The Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat's death brought a rare glimmer of optimism to the Middle East, with world leaders talking about the possibility of a new era. But the window of opportunity for peace could quickly close with a chaotic transition, a rise of militants or a failure by either side to seize the moment.

Arafat's death removes the chief excuse given by Israel and the United States for sidelining the Palestinian leadership. Both governments had dismissed Arafat as an unacceptable negotiating partner compromised by terror.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Arafat's passing "could be a historic turning point for the Middle East" and President Bush called it "a significant moment in Palestinian history."

Sharon indicated Israel might be willing to resume peace talks, but didn't alter previous conditions for doing so. It remained unclear if Israel might consider offering the new Palestinian leadership some gestures, such as lifting roadblocks or releasing prisoners, that could bolster their standing among Palestinians.

Sharon said in a speech that if Palestinian leaders emerge who are willing to stop "terror violence and incitements," then "the appropriate opportunity will be created to coordinate different processes with this leadership and even to resume peace talks."

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Channel Two

Analysis

TV the new Palestinian leadership "will have to prove itself" before a peace process can go forward.

The new Palestinian government — led by former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, a well-known moderate — may not have enough street credibility to achieve what Israel is demanding, however.

And if Israel doesn't make the first moves — allowing Abbas to show his people he can deliver results — the Palestinian leadership may be consumed by internal rivalries. Militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad are ready to fill any power vacuum.

On the Israeli side, Sharon is battling intense opposition from hard-liners to his plan to unilaterally "disengage" from the Palestinians, withdrawing Israeli troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements by next year.

Arafat's death is reinforcing calls from the left for Sharon to abandon his unilateral approach and begin coordinating with the Palestinians.

The United States will have to play an important role in bringing the two sides together. But doubts persist over whether Bush will inject the kind of energy needed to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But breaking the deadlocked Mideast peace process will largely come down to the Palestinians themselves.

and kings.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah as well as Abbas and Farouk Kaddoumi, the newly chosen leader of the Fatah organization, were among the dignitaries

Thousands of Palestinians hold symbolic Arafat funeral

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Barred from attending Yasser Arafat's burial in Ramallah, tens of thousands of Palestinians poured into Gaza City's central square for a symbolic funeral Friday — one of hundreds of memorial services throughout the area for the father of Palestinian nationalism.

Thousands crowded into the Omar al-masjid, the largest in Gaza, for memorial prayers, while a massive crowd — many holding pictures of Arafat, Palestinian flags and symbolic coffins — filled a one-mile square outside.

Outside the mosque, hundreds of security forces loyal to Arafat's Fatah movement fired automatic guns in the air. Militants from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups joined the procession, women wept in the streets and smoke from burning tires blackened the sky.

"The Arab nation and the Palestinian have lost Yasser Arafat," one man will take his place," said Fatima Sabah, 45, who sobbed outside her home in Gaza City. "No single leader will be like Yasser Arafat. He is in our blood."

Arafat was mourned by Palestinians at home and in refugee camps throughout the Middle East.

Citing security concerns, Israel barred virtually all Palestinians from the Gaza Strip from crossing through Israel to the West Bank.

As Arafat was laid to rest in Ramallah, funeral services began at the Omar mosque. An estimated 150,000 people crowded the mosque and the square outside. Afterwards, the crowd marched roughly two miles to Arafat's seaside compound.

who marched behind the casket.

Arafat's veiled widow, Suha, and their rarely seen 9-year-old daughter, Zahwa, wept as the Palestinian and Egyptian national anthems were played by a band before the casket was loaded aboard an Egyptian military plane. The jet flew to el-Arish, in Egypt's northeastern Sinai Peninsula, where the casket was transferred to the helicopter.

The United States, which had labeled Arafat an obstacle to peace, sent Assistant Secretary of State William Burns. Israel sent no delegation.



Palestinians wait Friday at the former headquarters of deceased Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah for the arrival of the helicopter carrying his coffin.

holy month of Ramadan, together with mourning for Arafat, would get out of control.

Egypt gave Arafat a state funeral in Cairo, even though he never realized his dream of Palestinian statehood.

The service began amid heavy security with humble prayers at mosque in a military compound and ended with a procession, his flag-draped wooden casket set on a horse-drawn gun carriage and followed by a crowd of presidents

Ivorian military investigating deadly airstrike

By PARFAIT KOUASSI
The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Ivory Coast launched a military inquiry Friday into a deadly airstrike on French peacekeepers that sparked five days of violent upheaval, as France and other nations continued to evacuate their nationals from the war-divided West African nation.

Ivorian officials have alternately denied responsibility for the Nov. 6 attack that killed nine French peacekeepers and an American aid worker in the rebel-held north, and said it was a mistake.

French survivors have said Ivory Coast warplanes made two passes over their position before opening fire.

"We have only one mission, one goal, to establish the truth," chief military prosecutor Ange Kessi said as he announced the probe on state-run television.

The military plans to ask the U.N. mission in Ivory Coast to send representatives to rebel headquarters in Bouake to assist with the inquiry, Kessi said. It also plans to look into another incident when security forces opened fire on an anti-foreigner demonstration in the commercial capital, Abidjan, he said. There are conflicting accounts of whether the forces were French or Ivorian.

In the hours of the Ivorian bombing, France had wiped out the nation's newly built-up air force, sparking an uprising by loyalist youths in the south who took to the streets with machetes, iron bars and clubs.

France, with some 14,000 citizens here, and other nations began flying out hundreds of foreigners Wednesday. French helicopters trapped foreigners from surrounding villages and brought them to Abidjan's international airport, still crowded Friday with frightened families waiting for flights out.

Some of the evacuees complained Friday that France had used excessive force against a surge of anti-foreigner mob violence.

"The French reaction was pretty violent," said an American restaurant owner, who asked not to be identified. He and other witnesses said French helicopters fired on demonstrators in Abidjan.

"Man, we heard of a lot of Ivorian friends dying," he said. The head of France's armed forces, Gen. Henri Bontegat, said Friday that French soldiers in Ivory Coast had fired in self-defense to hold back a "pack of looters, rapists" attacking foreigners. But he said the soldiers did "the absolute minimum" and claimed "a very large number" of casualties were killed by gunmen in the crowd.

At least three European women were raped during the rioting, according to a representative of the French community in Ivory Coast. They were evacuated home, Catherine Rechenmann told France-Inter radio Thursday night.

The turmoil has claimed at least 27 lives — a partial list including the 10 people killed in the airstrike — and wounded more than 1,000.

Ivory Coast presidential spokesman Desire Tagro said 62 loyalists had died. President Laurent Gbagbo planned to address a memorial service for them at a stadium Saturday in Abidjan.

A measure of calm returned to Abidjan on Thursday. Some shops reopened and traffic returned to streets strewn with charred vehicles and the remnants of road-blocks. Residents crowded supermarkets and waited in long lines to draw cash from ATMs.

Others stared with tears in their eyes at the looted wreckage of shops and offices.

U.N. peacekeepers reported that government troops had withdrawn beyond the zone separating the government-held south from the rebel-controlled north. U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said Thursday at U.N. headquarters in New York. Electricity and running water, believed to have been cut off in the north by authorities in the south, was restored to parts of Bouake.



French troops stand on alert as they provide security at the Abidjan airport in Ivory Coast on Thursday. Airlines shuttled hundreds of foreigners out of the area Thursday as South Africa convened urgent peace talks on a crisis that it said threatened to destabilize West Africa.

Leaders convene for peace talks in S. Africa

The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Defense Minister Mosisoa Lekota met Friday with Ivorian opposition leaders in an effort to bring peace to Ivory Coast where at least 27 people dead have died and western nations have scrambled to evacuate foreigners.

Defense Ministry spokesman Vuyo Zambodla said Lekota met for a little over an hour and a half Friday with former Ivorian Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara near Johannesburg.

He later met with the Defense Ministry with Alphonse Djedje Mady, the secretary general of the former ruling Democratic Party of Ivory Coast. Djedje Mady now heads a coalition pushing for implementation of previous peace accords.

Zambodla described the talks

as useful, but said they would continue after President Thabo Mbeki returns Saturday from the funeral of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Cairo.

Mbeki met briefly with Ivorian opposition leaders Thursday. He told them that Lekota and Foreign Minister Mosisoa Dlamini-Zuma would host the talks until his return.

South Africa said the talks would include Ivorian opposition and rebel leaders and would seek to restore earlier cease-fire agreements and pave the way for free and transparent elections next year.

However, a spokesman for the main rebel group in northern Ivory Coast, Sidi Kone, said they had not sent representatives to South Africa and refused to participate while President Laurent Gbagbo remains in power.

Russia to cut troop levels in Chechnya

By SERGEI VENYAVSKY
The Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — The Russian military may cut its deployment in Chechnya by about 1,000 troops and stop using conscripts in the war against separatist rebels next year, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Friday.

However, the announcements did not appear to indicate that Russia believes it is gaining advantage over the guerrillas it has been battling for more than five years. Ivanov said the 42nd Motorized Division that is the military's main unit in Chechnya "will stay there forever."

Ivanov, who made the statements during an inspection trip in Rostov-on-Don, headquarters for the military's southern region, did not give an overall figure for the troop presence in Chechnya.

But Russian officials this year said there were a total of about 70,000 armed forces in Chechnya, including the army, Interior Ministry troops and forces of the Federal Security Service, the main successor to the Soviet KGB. In addition, Chechnya has a large presidential security service that conducts operations against rebels — and is widely alleged to abduct and abuse civilians.

Another military official, North Caucasus District commander Alexander Baranov, said Friday that construction of 31 barracks for soldiers in Chechnya was underway or planned within the next year, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported, an apparent indication of Russia's intention to keep large contingents of soldiers in the republic for the long term.

The Russian military is weakened by dismal morale among conscripts, not only because of the years of bloodshed in Chechnya but because of widespread hearing and other abuse that provokes desertions and suicides.

The switch to a fully professional force in Chechnya was initially promised for 2004.

President Vladimir Putin has made reform of the underfunded and demoralized military a top priority, but backtracked on his initial plan to fully phase out the unpopular draft, accepting the top brass' proposal for a mixture of draftees and volunteer professional soldiers.

United Nations seeks \$1.7B for world's forgotten crisis areas

By NICK WADHAMMS
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations appealed for \$1.7 billion Friday to help 26 million people suffering in some of the world's forgotten disaster zones.

For months, international attention has focused on such hotspots as Iraq and Sudan, but Burundi, Rwanda, Russia's Chechnya region, Eritrea and many other places face dire problems and need urgent relief, Emergency Relief Coordina-

tor Jan Egeland said.

"It should be possible for the rich communities to do this investment because I can, as emergency relief coordinator, see no better way to invest in the future than to save lives," Egeland said.

The appeal seeks help for 14 crisis areas, 11 of them in Africa.

Among the worst is northern Uganda, which has many internally displaced people — 1.6 million — as Darfur, Egeland said.

"It is mind-boggling how little international attention there has been," he said.

A rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army has kidnapped about 22,000 children in 18 years of fighting, keeping them as sex slaves, fighters and porters.

"Others have been in prisons, others died due to diseases, and of course many of them died due to sexual abuse," said Angelina Atyam, whose daughter recently returned after eight years in LRA captivity with two daughters of her own born during the ordeal.

Last year, donor countries contributed only 52 percent of the \$3 billion the world

body sought for 30 countries.

This year, the appeal whittled away requests for money that would have gone for development and reconstruction, and focuses on only "crises" most in need, including food, sanitation and even mine-clearing.

The crises included in this year's appeal are Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya, Ivory Coast, Congo, Eritrea, central Africa's Great Lakes region, Guinea, the Palestinian territories, Republic of Congo, Somalia, Uganda, and West Africa.

Family business

CA SANTA MONICA — When city officials demanded that Bobby Shriver trim the hedges around his posh home or face misdemeanor charges, the outraged Kennedy nephew did what came naturally — he jumped into politics.

Backed by his famous family — including his brother-in-law, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — Shriver went on to wrap up the City Council election as the top vote-getter, leaving his extended clan wondering whether they should have nudged him toward the family business a little sooner.

"Landide Bob, that's my nickname," said Shriver, 50, who heads an AIDS foundation called DATA. "Now they're asking me, why did I make them all work so hard for a landslide?"

Not content to rely on family star power alone, the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy and son of 1972 vice presidential nominee R. Kergant Shriver flooded city mailboxes with a series of glossy "issues" fliers on homelessness, traffic and the environment.

Endangered and injured

KS HUTCHINSON — Two of the world's roughly 500 whooping cranes have been found injured in fields near the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Kansas Department of Wildlife are trying to find out how the birds were injured. One has a broken wing and the other had a leg that had to be removed.

The cranes' conditions were described as guarded Monday afternoon at the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Center in Manhattan. Dr. Jim Carpenter, with the school's zoological medical department, said there was a good chance both birds will survive.

Rusty vegetation

LA BATON RUGE — The first U.S. cases of soybean rust — which hinders plant growth and drastically cuts crop production — were found at two research sites in Louisiana, agriculture officials said Wednesday.

The wind-borne spores are suspected to have blown in the fungus from South America during the hurricane season and were found after the bulk of the state's soybeans had been harvested, Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odum said.

Though agriculture officials said the effect of the fungus should be minimal this year because it appeared after much of the harvest, Odum said he was worried that Louisiana's soybeans wouldn't sell as well.

Soybean rust can be treated with fungicides, but that adds increased costs to the production of soybeans. This fungus creates reddish-brown blotches on growing leaves, weakening the plant and reducing yields. It has been found in South America, Asia and Africa.

Cops crossing the line?

MA SPRINGFIELD — The city's police chief has launched an internal investigation into a school principal's accusations of police brutality.

Douglas Greer, principal of Rob-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ert M. Hughes Academy Charter School, said that police officers abused him last week while he was having a diabetic attack.

Mayor Charles Ryan said Greer's accusations are "troubling" and said the officers involved should be placed on administrative duty for the duration of the investigation.

Ryan said the incident happened Thursday evening after Greer pulled his BMW into a convenience store parking lot when he felt a diabetic attack coming on.

The store clerk said he called police after Greer's car had been parked for more than an hour. The clerk said Greer didn't respond to knocks on the car window.

The clerk, Richard Congdon, told The Republican newspaper of Springfield that he saw police break the car window and pull Greer through after the principal didn't respond to their knocks.

Congdon said police held Greer on the ground, but did not see them kicking or punching him.

Pipeline to the top

AK ANCHORAGE — The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed suit against Alyeska Pipeline Services Co., claiming minority employees were passed over for promotions within the company in 2002.

The lawsuit alleges that Hispanic, Native and black employees in the contracts department at the

company's Anchorage headquarters were not promoted to jobs where they would work on procurement strategy because of their race or national origin.

The lawsuit asks the court to order Alyeska to give the employees back pay with interest, as well as punitive damages.

Alyeska, owned by five oil companies, runs the 800-mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline and Valdez tanker port and employs 858 people.

Only one employee, a Hispanic commercial auditor named Anthony Navarro, is named in the complaint, but EEOC attorneys claim the company also discriminated against others.

Coyote catchers

TX AUSTIN — Officials in two metropolitan areas are taking steps to remove coyotes from residential areas after they have been spotted on streets, in backyards and on porches in neighborhoods throughout Travis County and in the wealthy neighborhood of River Oaks in Houston.

Travis County and the city of Austin will finance a \$40,000 contract with the Texas Wildlife Services Program to cull the coyotes, the Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday. The culling will be focused on the most aggressive animals that have lost their innate fear of humans, said Jeff Ripley of the Texas Cooperative Extension. The animals will be trapped and then euthanized.

Quake along border

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A magnitude 4.1 earthquake shook a sparsely populated area along the Utah-Colorado state line, and was felt about 60 miles away, the University of Utah's Seismographic Stations reported.

There were no immediate reports of damage.

The epicenter of the earthquake late Saturday was in the Paradox Valley area, seven miles east of the state line and 16 miles southwest of the mining ghost town of Uran, Colo., said Dr. Walter Arrabaz.

State consolidation

VT MONTPELIER — Gov. James Douglas said Wednesday he wants to merge the state departments of Labor and Industry and Employment and Training into one Department of Labor.

He also announced that Transportation Secretary Patricia McDonald will move to the Employment and Training Department to lead the administration's effort to win legislative approval for the merger.

That's not voter aid

FL JACKSONVILLE — A newspaper mistakenly published the telephone number of a sex talk service on the front page on its Election Day issue. The number was supposed to be for a national voter hot line.

"We didn't follow our policy of calling the number before publishing it," said Pat Yack, editor of The Florida Times-Union.

Yack said as soon as the mistake was learned, a correction was published on the newspaper's Web site and in the paper.



Walking a thin line

From left, Tate Byrum, Brent Blades and Woody Rodgers take part in the stick walk contest, where three team members must walk in a coordinated fashion on two planks, during Pioneer Day in White Plains, Ky.



Trotting along

Billy Crego travels in his restored 1940s milk wagon, the last horse-drawn Lansing Dairy Co. milk wagon used for door-to-door deliveries, pulled by a percheron horse named Kalil near his family's home in Waterlawn Township, Mich.



Hitting the slopes

A skier races down a trail at the Killington Ski Area in Killington, Vt., on the opening day of skiing for the Eastern mountain resort.



Quite an ax Fender Musical Instruments Corp. public relations director Morgan Ringwald carries a 10-foot Stratocaster guitar across Jackson Street in Phoenix. Ringwald was breaking down the guitar from its display after a news conference introducing "Guitar Mania."



Time for patriotism First-graders Dylan Ferrier, left, and Abundio Ortiz show their respect during recital of the Pledge of Allegiance at a Veterans Day ceremony at Henley Elementary School in Klamath Falls, Ore.



Off you go Jerry Hugo, of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, releases an eagle near St. Maries, Idaho. The bird was injured in the late part of September and had been rescued by a local veterinarian.



Super-sized Santa Bryan Buquet, 3, right, of Dulac, La., reaches for a giant inflated Santa Claus as his mother, Stephanie Collins, sitting at left, and his grandmother, Mary Collins, not pictured, install the lawn decoration outside their Dulac, La.

Smoker shock

KY LEXINGTON — A Lexington radio station indefinitely suspended the hosts of its morning show Thursday after a hoax "report" that people could no longer smoke in their cars.

The hoax, broadcast on WXXZ-FM Wednesday, prompted hundreds of people to tie up phone lines to police, health departments, city hall and the county attorney's office.

WXXZ general manager Chris Clendenen said in a statement Thursday that the decision was made to suspend the hosts — identified only by on-air names Twitch, Mary Jane and Kyle — because the hoax caused such a disruption to city government.

Clendenen said he was sure that the hoax was "done with the best of intentions and that there was no malicious intent."

"I'm not sure we violated any laws or regulations," Clendenen said.

Strange stabbing

CA LONG BEACH — A woman was stabbed to death as officers waited for her to unlock a gate so they could search her yard for an intruder, police said.

The officers had asked Lynn Schockner, 50, to unlock the gate to her backyard Monday so they could investigate a neighbor's report of a possible intruder. She agreed and went inside the house to go to unlock the gate.

As two officers waited out front, another went to an alley near Schockner's backyard. He called on the radio to tell the officers he caught a man scaling Schockner's fence.

Schockner was found dead outside her back door.

The killing "hit the officers so hard we brought some counselors out," Cannan said.

Nicholas Harvey, 22, of Port Hueneme, was arrested on suspicion of murder. Harvey had a knife and jewelry when he was captured, Cannan said.

Parishioner won't go

MA WINCHESTER — A parishioner was arrested for refusing to leave a church targeted for closure by the archdiocese as part of a restructuring.

Gene Sweeney, 69, was charged with trespassing after he was removed Saturday night from Immaculate Conception Church in the Boston suburb of Winchester. He was released on \$40 bail.

Parishioners from at least eight churches are conducting sit-ins — some lasting as long as two months — to protest the archdiocese's plan to close or consolidate 82 of its 357 parishes. The restructuring was prompted in part by economic woes caused by the clergy sex abuse scandal.

The archdiocese has not disrupted the vigils, but Sweeney's arrest marked the first time a church official has had a parishioner forcibly removed.

Gas line approved

MI LANSING — A new gasoline pipeline could be built along Interstate 96 in south Lansing, despite the city's opposition, under legislation approved Wednesday by a Michigan House

committee.

The House Energy and Technology Committee voted 11-6 to send the bill to the full House, which was expected to vote on it later Wednesday.

Lansing officials have spent nearly three years fighting it, arguing any leaks could endanger the city's water supply and residents' safety.

Fighting snowmobiles

MT BILLINGS — Environmental groups have filed a lawsuit over the National Park Service's plan for allowing snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park for the next three winters.

The environmentalists claim the government failed to take into account the effect that trails groomed for snowmobiles have on wildlife, particularly bison that travel the roads during the winter.

The lawsuit was filed last week in federal court in Washington, D.C., after the Park Service issued a "finding of no significant impact" for its winter snowmobile plans, an attorney said.

Pricey painting

NY NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art has agreed to buy a tiny work by the early Renaissance master Duccio di Buoninsegna for what it said was its most expensive purchase ever, the museum announced Wednesday.

"Madonna and Child," painted in 1300, measures 8 inches by 11 inches, and is the first work by this important early 14th century artist in the Met's collection.

The Met would not disclose the price, but The New York Times Wednesday quoted anonymous art experts familiar with the deal as saying that the Met paid between \$45 million and \$50 million for the work.

Jilted jockeys

KY LOUISVILLE — Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, said Monday it banned about a dozen jockeys from the rest of the fall meet after riders threatened to boycott upcoming races in a dispute over health insurance.

Some banished jockeys said the track can easily afford supplemental coverage for jockeys.

Churchill Downs President Steve Sexton said the protest threatened to cause a "disruptive" situation in the jockeys' dressing room as well as uncertainty over the availability of riders for races.

Hostage crisis

CA LOS ANGELES — A man demanding media attention took a female employee hostage at the Mexican consulate Tuesday before he was wounded by police outside the building. The hostage escaped unharmed.

The hostage-taker was in critical condition, police Chief William Bratton said.

A television videotape showed the black-clad man, his arm around the woman's neck, leave a parking lot exit and down a sidewalk as police closed in. The man suddenly collapsed backward to the ground and officers pulled the woman away as others pointed their guns at him.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

FACES

Bond buggy for sale

James Bond's moon buggy from the movie "Diamonds Are Forever" is up for sale.

The moon buggy that Bond, played by Sean Connery, used to make a hasty getaway in the 1971 film will be among a collection of movie and entertainment pieces offered at Christie's in London on Dec. 14, auctioneers said Wednesday.

Other items include **Charlie Chaplin's** mustache from the 1940 film "The Great Dictator," scripts from British radio's "Goon Show" and a Storm Trooper helmet used in the 1980 sci-fi flick "Star Wars: Episode V — The Empire Strikes Back."

Editor of 700 Magazine and James Bond buff **Graham Rye** is offering the moon buggy for sale after tracking it down and having it restored.

"It's an important piece of cinema history from one of Sean Connery's most popular James Bond films," Rye said.

Christie's estimates the moon buggy would sell for \$37,000 to \$56,000.

SNL vet headed for divorce

Actor **Tim Meadows** has filed for a divorce. **Michelle Meadows** filed divorce papers in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday.



Meadows

The couple were married in July 1997 and have two sons, ages 3 and 1, according to court papers. Michelle Meadows has requested the children live with her but that legal custody be shared.

Meadows, 43, was a longtime cast member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live." His film credits include "Mean Girls" and "The Ladies Man."

50 Cent pleads innocent to assault

Rapper **50 Cent** pleaded innocent to assault charges stemming from an alleged incident at a concert.

Steve Leary, the lawyer for the rapper, whose real name is **Curtis Jackson**, entered the plea Monday in Springfield District Court in Massachusetts, said **James Orenstein**, first assistant district attorney for Hampden County.

Jackson, 26, didn't appear in court.

At a concert in Springfield in May, Jackson allegedly jumped into the crowd after someone threw or squirted water at him. Three women were injured. After an investigation and a hearing last month, a clerk magistrate decided there was probable cause for assault and battery charges.

Jackson, who lives in Farmington, Conn., is scheduled to appear for a pretrial conference Feb. 8.



50 Cent

Bunnies, Buffet and bullet holes

A tour of the Playboy Mansion, tickets to a **Jimmy Buffet** concert and a signed first edition of **Hunter S. Thompson's** "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" — complete with your own personal bullet hole — are among the prizes being auctioned on behalf of The Paris Review, the celebrated literary magazine.



Hefner

The charity auction, which began Tuesday and ends Nov. 18, is titled, "The World of the Paris Review: The Greatest International Literary Magazine, Complete with Sports, Stars, Literary Superheroes, and a course the Irrespressible Spirit of Founder and Late Editor **George Plimpton**."

Plimpton, the famed author-adventurer who ran the magazine for 50 years, died in 2003.

The Paris Review hopes to raise at least \$75,000. Among other things, proceeds would be used to help publish the magazine and stage public readings.

Seventy-two items are available for bidding, including a voucher to have **Alec Baldwin** record your voicemail message; passes to the premiere of **Martin Scorsese's** new film, "The Aviator"; drinks with **Charlie Rose**, and artwork by **Christo**, **Keith Haring**, **Larry Rivers** and **James Rosenquist**.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Drummer Tommy Lee trades the rock band for the marching band in new reality series

BY SCOTT BAUER
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — You'd think he'd be good at the drums.

But there was rocker **Tommy Lee**, struggling to keep up with 22-year-old University of Nebraska marching band veteran **Ben Coleman**. No, Lee hasn't left the stage to go back to school — but he's turned the Nebraska campus on its head by filming an upcoming reality show here.

The six-episode, half-hour show, set to air on NBC next year, will focus on the former **Motley Crue** drummer's experiences while trying out for the band, taking classes on plant identification and chemistry, hanging out in his off-campus apartment — and, no doubt, partying.

"Everyone wants to party with him," said 21-year-old student **Burt Kilgore**, who's part of Lee's horticulture class. So far Lee has turned down invitations to hit the downtown bars, Kilgore said.

Showing the much-tattooed, nose-pierced, high school dropout tearing it up with college students isn't the goal of the show, said executive producer **Eddie October**.

That's Tommy's former or original rock star life, October said. "The concept of the show is very much that Tommy is a fish out of water and Tommy is making the effort to fit into this collegiate experience."

Campus Chancellor **Harvey Perlman** says before NBC got the green light he was assured the show would be about the redemptive nature of higher education — not the seamy side.

But Perlman knows there are risks when a personality like Lee is involved.

After compiling a standard sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll resume, he became infamous after a honeymoon sex tape surfaced in 1993 of him with then-wife **Pamela Anderson**. Lee also served four months behind bars after pleading no contest to kicking Anderson while she held their son.

"They offered us **Tommy Lee**, they didn't offer us **Snow White**," Perlman said.

The criticism began the minute news of the show broke two weeks ago.

"For years, we have been trying to send the message that we are increasing our standards, that we are a research university that is to be taken seriously. This is not consistent with that message," said economics professor **Ann Mari May**.

The anger stems not from anything the 42-year-old drummer behind hard rock hits such as "Smok-

in the Boys Room" and "Dr. Feelgood" has done since he got here. It's his past that's haunting him.

In his new book released Tuesday, "Tommyland," Lee describes his rock 'n' roll lifestyle: "We drank oceans of liquor, snorted and shot mountains of drugs, crashed cars, watched people die, and watched one another fight, make up, break up, reunite, and break up again."

Local domestic violence and family groups have gone on record with concerns about Lee's show coming to the campus, and the university's Women's Caucus urged members to sign a petition decrying the program.

"They're aligning themselves with a person who has a history of abuse," said **Bob Moyer**, director of the Family Violence Council.

Perlman acknowledged that Lee had a checkered past, but said some were taking the filming of the show too seriously. Lee is not enrolled at the school and he will not receive actual credit for any classes.

"I think you can be a serious institution and do serious work without taking yourself too seriously," Perlman said. But judging by accounts of students who have interacted with Lee, HE is taking it seriously.

Lee was up for marching band practice for a full week, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., braving chilly temperatures that one day had him wearing black gloves and a white knit hat emblazoned with the red Nebraska "N."

"When he showed up, I didn't know what to think," said Coleman, the drummer who took Lee under his wing.

"He really had the greatest attitude about work, trying to make it happen," Coleman said.

Lee was allowed to march with the band during halftime of the Nebraska-Baylor football game Oct. 16 before 77,881 football fans.

Lee performed admirably, drawing applause each time he was shown on the big screen beamed down in the school's band uniform.

Lee isn't granting interviews while on campus, although during a recent break from shooting — after taking a plant identification quiz — he described the experience so far as "killer."

Horticulture professor **Richard Sutton** gave his famous "student" high marks.

"He's participating and doing a lot of studying outside of class," Sutton said. "He's jumped in with both feet."

LATWP

YOUR MONEY

Start money lessons early

Experts: Allowances, accounts start kids off on right foot

BY MEG RICHARDS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ask a child where money comes from and you might hear that it's printed by automatic teller machines, or that it grows on trees. But as anyone who's ever been in earshot of a check-out line tantrum knows, it doesn't take long for this confusion to stop being cute.

It was after a series of such meltdowns that Vincent Iannelli, a pediatrician and father of three who lives outside Dallas, decided it was time for his 5-year-old to start learning about how much things cost.

"He would just want everything. If we were at the grocery store, he wanted candy, and he wanted quarters to get little toys out of the machine. It was becoming a big problem," Iannelli said.

"So we decided we were going to give him a set amount of allowance each week, and when he asked for things, we said, 'You have to buy that with your own money.' And very quickly he learned to make better choices."

These days, when the Iannellis go to the toy store, their 6½-year-old son reads the prices and understands which items are expensive and which ones are within reach. He even saved several weeks of his allowance to buy a special book he wanted. The experiment has been such a success, Iannelli is thinking about starting even earlier with his twin toddlers.

"This is important stuff, and I don't think you just can sit back and expect kids to pick it up," said Iannelli, who runs several Web sites on child-rearing and recently wrote a book for new fathers. "A lot of parents just don't think about it, or they just buy what their kids want. But if they're asking you to buy them things and they know about ATM cards and credit cards, they know about money. They just don't know how to budget it."

Most experts recommend an age-appropriate allowance for children as young as 6 or 7, but it's never too late to start as long as the kids are still at home. Regardless of age, giving a child the responsibility of managing money can be "like a miracle," said Janet Bodnar, author of the book, "Dollars & Sense for Kids," and senior editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance.

Bodnar saw a huge difference with her own children, who were responsible for buying their refreshments when the family went to the movies. Once they understood that the cost of these goods would come out of their own pockets, they looked for theaters that gave free refills, whereas if Mom had been paying, "they couldn't have cared less," Bodnar said.

"You've got to give them hands-on experience managing actual cash money. They have to see its limits," Bodnar said. "They have to see the money go,

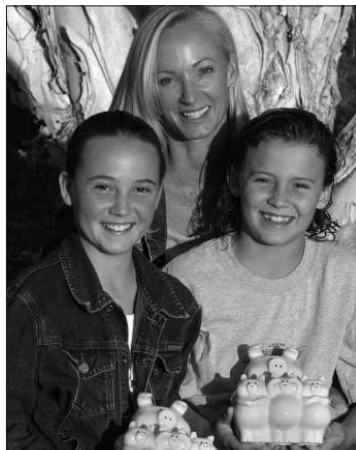
they have to see the big empty in their wallet or their piggy bank."

So how are Bodnar's three children doing? So far so good for the older two, now in college; they're managing their money well and haven't overdrawn their checking accounts. And her youngest, still in high school, recently opened a savings account to hold money earned from a summer job.

Savings and checking accounts can offer kids valuable lessons on making deposits and withdrawals and can teach basic skills, like how to write a check and balance a checkbook. Credit cards, though, are a different story: With the exception of debit cards linked to checking accounts for older kids, most experts say it's a mistake to give plastic to teens before they've nailed the basics of money management. It's especially important to discuss the dangers of debt with college-bound kids, because they'll be inundated by credit card offers.

For parents who are struggling with debt themselves, this might be a sticky subject. But you won't be doing your child any favors by avoiding the issue.

Sometimes educating children turns out to be a learning experience for parents, said Lori Mackey, a former hair stylist who developed a small business based on her own efforts to teach her child about money. Discouraged by the dearth of books and educational products available for younger kids, Mackey designed her own



Lori Mackey, center, shown with her children Briana, 11, left, and Devin, 9, is the founder of "Prosperity 4 Kids." Many experts recommend giving an age-appropriate allowance to children as young as 6.

system. She got three small piggy banks and labeled them "G" for giving, "I" for investing and "S" for savings, and a fourth, larger bank that she called the Mama piggy. She taught her kids to put 10 percent of their allowance in each of the small pigs and 70 percent in the Mama pig, for spending.

Friends encouraged her to market the idea, and she recently won an Parenting Media Award for her four-chambered bank and the book she wrote to go with it, "Money Mama and the Three Little Pigs," which is designed for kids ages 3 to 10.

In the process of teaching these ideas to her kids, Mackey said she and her husband wound up chang-

ing the way they handled their own money. They were always good earners, and were able to save for short-term goals. But they didn't invest on a consistent basis, and rarely contributed to charities. This changed, she said, as she watched her 9-year-old son, Devin, and her 11-year-old daughter, Briana, donate money to charities.

"If kids can get money right, they can grow up to be what they want to be, they can get the jobs they like, they can follow their passions, because money will not be the driving force behind what they choose to do. If they follow these principles, that's all they have to do to create wealth in their lives," Mackey said.

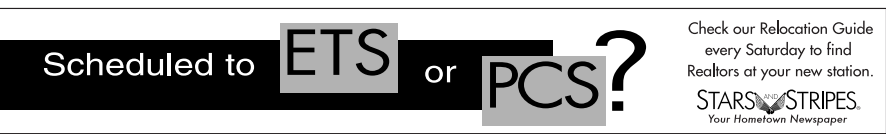
THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	High	Low	Net	% YTD
			Chg	52-wk
Dow Jones Industrial	10,640.01	10,630.01	+1.1	+3.2
S&P 500	1,274.46	1,274.46	+48.94	+13.7
Nasdaq Composite	2,847.07	2,847.07	+5.1	+22.17
Dow Jones Transpor	6,592.97	6,592.97	+59.75	+47
NYSE Composite	1,357.35	1,357.35	+5.70	+4.3
Nasdaq Comp	2,847.07	2,847.07	+5.1	+22.17
Nasdaq Comp	2,847.07	2,847.07	+5.1	+22.17
S&P 500	1,274.46	1,274.46	+48.94	+13.7
Dow Jones Ind	10,640.01	10,640.01	+1.1	+3.2
Dow Jones Ind	10,640.01	10,640.01	+1.1	+3.2

AMEX				
	High	Low	Net	% YTD
			Chg	52-wk
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
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NASDAQ				
	High	Low	Net	% YTD
			Chg	52-wk
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
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KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
	High	Low	Net	% YTD
			Chg	52-wk
Alcatel	33.20	33.20	+0.10	+1.0
Boeing	100.00	100.00	+0.00	+0.0
Lockheed Martin	110.00	110.00	+0.00	+0.0
Northrop Grumman	100.00	100.00	+0.00	+0.0
Raytheon	100.00	100.00	+0.00	+0.0
General Dynamics	100.00	100.00	+0.00	+0.0
Boeing	100.00	100.00	+0.00	+0.0
Lockheed Martin	110.00	110.00	+0.00	+0.0
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Lockheed Martin	110.00	110.00	+0.00	+0.0
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Horoscope

Without earth-sign energy to ground us, it's easy to fly off in a random direction that makes no practical sense. The Sagittarius moon says, "Why not?" as it urges us into such adventures — or misadventures, as the case may be. But with energy this bright, it's possible to turn any badly planned excursion into the best story we'll tell all year.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 13). Your morality, work ethic and discipline are remarkably strong this year. You'll proudly reap the benefits of this when people notice and reward your consistent behavior. Share the credit next with your health and your wealth increases. An intimidating presence is met in December. Singles: This person is a potential new love.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You step up to a challenge and then take a look around. You seem to be the only one doing it! This realization could cause you to flinch. Doubts are natural, but chances are, there's nothing wrong with your action.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your influence over the people close to you is more pronounced — you could see a flip-flop occur in an instant because of what you advise. Choose your area of focus carefully, so as not to waste this chance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As usual, you're bright and articulate, attracting the creme de la creme with your witty conversation. Though your insights seem obvious to you, you'll raise a few eyebrows when you voice them. Bring your camera tonight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your sideways view of life is a complete asset to those around you. You'll imagine the one thing nobody else is thinking of and solve the problems that face the group. Something funny happens this evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Family and friends need you for things they've never needed you for before. You'll be wondering if you can deliver. As in most situations you've

faced lately, showing up with a willingness to help will be more than sufficient.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Acceptance is the theme. If you love someone, does that mean you have to love everything that person does?

Of course not. But you may feel compelled to pretend that you do as a show of support.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Possibilities you never considered before have potential now. You may have to redefine yourself to fit the new picture, however. This forces you to ponder your talents and figure out what you're not quite as great at.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Brusque candor is your trademark, but curb that habit in favor of keeping the peace at home. If you stick around when things are bugging you, it's only a matter of time before you "go off." Distract yourself with some fun!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being around people who are smart and funny and have a unique way of seeing the world, of course, bring you up. Totally avoid the other kind. Certain relationships have gotten lazy, and it's time to admit this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As driven as you are at work, you're even more adamant about your various amusements! You'll play like you have rabid strength! When you're with people who understand you, you're the highlight of their social world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have something to really sing about! You carved your niche and stuck to it, even though some people said it couldn't work. You do have a way of opening people's minds and making them come out of their shells.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Steer clear of that closed-off person with the piercing stare. When he or she is ready to be friends, you'll be approached. In the meantime, concentrate on people who give you terrific energy.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



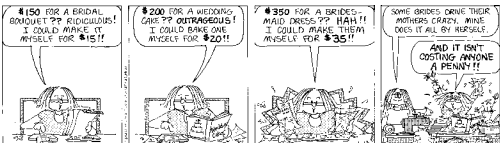
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



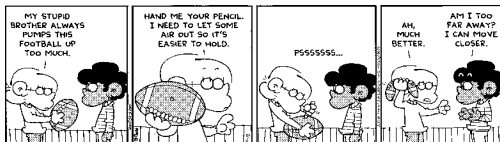
Red and Rover



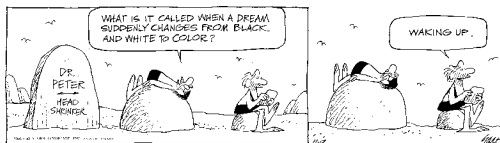
Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



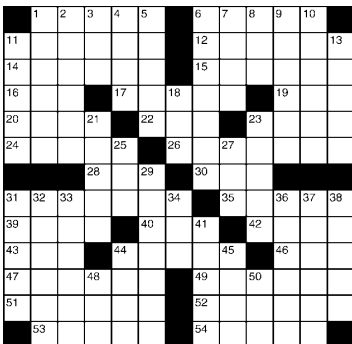
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Twists out of shape
6 Navigational hazards
11 Forward pass
12 Small studio's output
14 Spouse-less
15 Clone
16 Country club employee
17 Tends tears
19 Entreat
20 One way to stand by
22 Ward healer, e.g.
23 Melodic Home
24 Sets of laws
26 A bunch
28 Sounds of satisfaction
30 Squabble
31 Minotaur slayer
35 Smoky strands
39 Broadway hit based on "La Boheme"
40 One of the gang
42 Child's play
43 Bran provider
44 Debate
46 Flamenco cheer
47 — Crown
49 In
51 Rill
52 One
53 Logic

- 54 Man-goat of myth

Down

- 1 Kook
2 First name of 37-Down
3 18-wheeler
4 Life locale
5 Pull a Van
6 Winkle
7 Jim Carrey role
7 Grandson of Eve
8 Part of a school's Web site address
9 One who's unbelievable?
10 1997 J.Lo biopic
11 Jelly mold
13 "Just Shoot Me" cast member
18 Ph. bk. data
21 It will rise
23 Telethon VIP
25 Jerry
27 That girl
29 Promise
29 Highest-ranking
31 Jogs
32 Card game
33 Whole
34 Droop
36 Showing disdain
37 Links
38 legend
38 Velocity
41 Waikiki windings
44 "Sad to tell, ..."
45 Sicilian spouter
48 Corral
50 Smack

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-13 CRYPTOQUIP

P IKOY CDM D UPKPCJYE
EYZYDECPKN ZPC CYEUIK.
P NGYCC ZY TEDOJPOYC
MZDJ ZY TEYDOZYC.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A PHYSICIST CAN'T COMPLETE HIS CHORES, PERHAPS HE HAS TOO MANY IONS IN THE FIRE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals C

Disclosure makes families closer

Dear Abby: I am a sophomore in high school. When I was 13, I had a party while my parents were not at home. I got drunk, and my boyfriend, "Jimmy Joe," raped me. I tried to kill myself afterward, but was unsuccessful. I told my best friend that Jimmy Joe and I had broken up because we never got to see each other.

Dear Abby



Two years later, I had a mental meltdown and told her why I really broke up with Jimmy Joe. She said I should tell my father, since he and I are really close.

Daddy has always trusted me, and I'm afraid if I tell him, he'll lose love for me because of the party I had when he and Mom weren't home. Because it has been so long since it happened, and I am over it now, it is even worth telling him about it.

Dear Uncled: Giving the party was wrong, but the rape

was not your fault. Tell your father what happened. He may be disappointed that you broke the rules, but he will also be concerned for your welfare. You may discover that by revealing what happened, you become closer to both your parents. It is never too late to get help, and if this episode were truly over, you would not be having "meltdowns." There are crisis centers for rape victims, and it would benefit you to visit one and tell your story.

That's how healing begins.

Dear Abby: I need

help! I have this friend who insists on buying me gifts that I don't want, like or need. She buys me T-shirts that don't fit me, among other things.

She's driving me crazy. She says she does it because I'm her best friend. (She's not my best

friend.) I have told her several times to please stop spending her money on me. She won't listen. Most of the gifts she gives me end up going to charity.

Why does she do this? How can I get her to stop spending and wasting her money? I don't want—and won't—buy her anything.

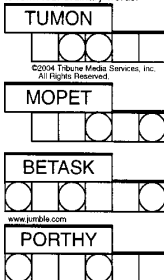
—**Going Crazy in Portland**

Dear Going Crazy: She does it because she wants to be your best friend and she knows she's not. She thinks that if she keeps on giving, it will persuade you to like her more. You can get her to stop by refusing to accept the gifts. Tell her you like her, but that being on the receiving end all the time makes you feel uncomfortable. A lot of people make that mistake. They give and give and give some more, and when they don't get what they want in return, they feel cheated.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6840, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "TUMON" "MOPET" "BETASK" "PORTHY"

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAUGE BRAVE PURPLE FLEECE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

A good way to buy cosmetics—AT "FACE" VALUE

Share blame with controlling spouse

Dear Annie: My husband, "Vincent," and I have been married for 12 years. Vince always has been the one in control of the finances, etc., and it has taken me all this time to realize just how controlling he is.

I work as a customer service representative and deal with a lot of the same people daily. To deal with Vince's emotional abuse, I began turning toward my customers to find support. One customer in particular, "Matt," always brightens my day, so I decided to go to his town and visit him so I could put a face to the name. The whole thing was quite innocent, but it backfired, and I am just devastated.

Vince broke into my private e-mails and assumed I intended to have an affair. To make matters worse, Vince accessed Matt's home phone and address, and his wife's place of work. He then called Matt's wife and told her I had an affair with her husband.

I feel awful that this innocent

Annie's Mailbox



meeting turned into such a disaster. Matt now will no longer have any contact with me. I totally understand, but I hate losing a friend. I am currently in counseling, but am not sure how much more of the distrust and control I can take.

No Strength
Dear No Strength: You're kidding yourself if you think your intentions were completely innocent.

This is what we call "looking for trouble." Your marriage sounds miserable. Please discuss the situation honestly with your counselor and decide if you want to remain with Vince or not. Ask Vince to join you for a few sessions. Perhaps it will be possible for the two of you to build a healthier relationship.

Dear Annie: Hooray for your response to "Look What Followed Me Home in Texas," the teenager who wanted to avoid a pesky girl who wouldn't leave her alone.

Thirteen years ago, my husband's sister died of cancer. She was 15.

As hard as her death was, it was much more difficult trying to understand some of the cruel things her classmates did during the last years of her life. Because she had a brain tumor, my sister-in-law appeared different to those around her, and a lot of the kids at school made her life a living hell. When she passed, many of these kids came to her funeral, apologizing to her family for the pain they had caused.

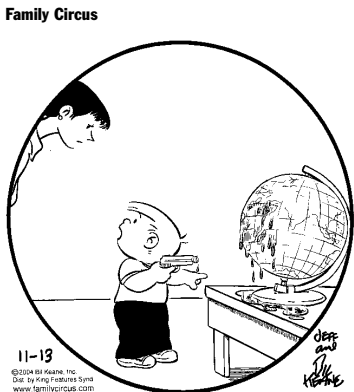
It is important that we, as adults, provide positive examples for our youth. I've forgiven the students who hurt my sister-in-law, and it is my hope that, out of respect for her memory, they will encourage others to be better people.

—C.B.

Dear C.B.: Place our wishes alongside yours.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creative Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate



11-13

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"I figured the Sahara Desert could use a little rain."

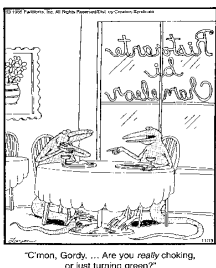


Domis the Menace

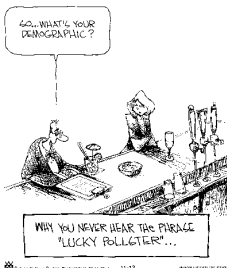


© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



GO, WHAT'S YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC?

WHY YOU NEVER HEAR THE PHRASE "LUCKY FOLLGSTER"...

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—Rodeo: Pro Bull Riding Tour (indicated)

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Indiana at Philadelphia (indicated)

AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.—College football: Air Force football with Fisher De Berry (indicated)

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College football: Iowa at Northwestern at Michigan

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College football: Iowa at Minnesota

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—College football: Boston College football at West Virginia

AFN-Pacific, 9:30 p.m.—College football: Tennessee at Texas A&M

AFN-Pacific, 9:30 p.m.—College football: Minnesota at Texas A&M

AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m.—College football: Georgia at Auburn

Sunday

AFN-Pacific, 1 a.m.—College football: Nebraska at Oklahoma

AFN-Pacific, 1 a.m.—College football: South Carolina at Florida

AFN-Pacific, 1 a.m.—Auto racing: Bush Series (8-10-2004)

AFN-Pacific, 9 a.m.—College football: Utah at Wyoming (indicated)

AFN-Pacific, 9 a.m.—College football: Alabama at LSU (indicated)

AFN-Pacific, 9 a.m.—College football: Georgia at South Carolina at Florida (indicated)

AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.—NFL: Tampa Bay at Atlanta

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—NFL: Baltimore at N.Y. Jets

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—NFL: Baltimore at N.Y. Jets

AFN-Atlantic, 7:30 p.m.—Auto racing: Nextel Cup Southern 500

AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m.—NFL: Cincinnati at Washington

AFN-Pacific, midnight-10 p.m.—NFL: Giants at Minnesota (in progress)

AFN-Pacific, midnight-10 p.m.—NFL: Minnesota at Green Bay

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No. 6 Texas (9-0) did not play. Next: at Kansas, Saturday.

No. 7 Utah (9-0) did not play. Next: at Wyoming, Saturday.

No. 8 Michigan (9-1) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Auburn, Saturday.

No. 9 Michigan (9-1) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.

No. 10 Miami (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Miami, Saturday.

No. 11 Florida State (9-0) did not play. Next: at North Carolina State 17-10, Nov. 20.

No. 12 Virginia Tech (9-0) did not play. Next: at Houston, Nov. 20.

No. 13 Oklahoma (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Boston College (6-2) did not play. Next: at San Jose State, Saturday.

No. 14 Tennessee (7-2) did not play. Next: at Tennessee Tech, Saturday.

No. 15 Virginia Tech (9-0) did not play. Next: at Miami, Nov. 18.

No. 16 LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Saturday.

No. 18 Miami (6-2) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Virginia, Saturday.

No. 19 Iowa (7-2) did not play. Next: at Minnesota, Saturday.

No. 20 Arizona State (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Saturday.

No. 21 Boston College (6-2) did not play. Next: at No. 12 West Virginia, Saturday.

No. 22 Texas A&M (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.

No. 23 UTEP (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Rice, Saturday.

No. 24 Notre Dame (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia, Saturday.

No. 25 Oklahoma State (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.

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Thursdays women's scores

Kentucky Christian College, Highland Bluff 50
North Georgia, 31, Griffin 7

Missouri Valley, 68, Harris-Stowe 57

Westminster, 68, Harris-Stowe 57

First Round
Montana-Western, 70, Dickinson 50

Point Loma, 81, Great Falls 65

Women's Sports Development Classic
Arizona, 80, Virginia 68

LSU, 81, Maine 56

Upon further review ... GMs split on instant replay

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — No further review necessary: Baseball has finished looking at instant replay, for now.

Big league general managers split 15-15 Thursday on whether to keep exploring replay, a straw poll taken following a postseason in which umpires reversed almost every wrong call.

"Based on that vote, it's unlikely we'll do anything substantive in the next year to pursue instant replay," MLB executive vice president Sandy Alderson said.

The NFL, NBA and NHL use some form of replay. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig is adamantly against it and can veto any proposal to give it a try.

"I understand that vote today, that there are people who want to keep things at the status quo," Selig said. "I'm not afraid to change. You never say never."

"But the humanness of the umpires is part of the game. I'm satisfied where it is. I just don't think it would be a positive addition."

Replay opponents got a boost in October when umpires over-

turned two rulings in Game 6 of the AL Championship Series. TV game fans a clear view of what happened — once the six umpires huddled, it came into focus for them, too, and Alex Rodriguez was declared out because of interference on one play and Mark Bellhorn got a home run on the other.

"Had they gotten those calls wrong, would there have been more interest in pursuing instant replay? There might've been," Alderson said.

What the issue over for now, GMs turned their attention back to the main business at hand. That is, looking at trades and free agents.

Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa seemed to interest the New York Mets, and those teams talked for a second straight day, leaving a late-afternoon session. Randy Johnson may want to leave the cost-cutting Arizona Diamondbacks for a contender. And there was speculation the Texas Rangers would consider dealing Alfonso Soriano.

"Once you get to a second meeting, things can happen," Mets GM Omar Minaya said.

"The humanness of the umpires is part of the game."

I'm satisfied where it is.

I just don't think it [replay] would be a positive addition."

Bud Selig

Baseball commissioner

Roger Clemens and Tim Lincecum became the last two of 207 players to file for free agency. Starting Friday, clubs can talk money with any free agent.

The New York Yankees, as always, figure to be extremely active.

Their immediate targets will be center fielder Carlos Beltran and pitchers Carl Pavano, Eric Milton and Ron Villone.

Other teams packed up and headed home from the session

that began Monday and ended Friday morning.

Alderson and umpire supervisor Rich Rieker made a presentation to the GMs on Thursday, showing that nine-inning games were played in an average of 2 hours, 47 minutes, up a minute from 2003.

In something that could someday lead to a speed-up, the Arizona Fall League is experimenting with requiring hitters to keep one foot in the batter's box, rather than stepping out after each pitch. The penalty is an automatic strike, and Alderson said the rule might get a tryout in a low minor league next season.

Alderson said that according to the QuesTec computer system, umpires correctly called more than 93 percent of pitches. And they said that all 68 umpires met the expected standard of at least 90 percent.

The percentage was much more mixed when it came to instant replay, which could be used on "boundary calls" — whether a ball was fair or foul, or whether it cleared a wall or not.

Cincinnati Reds GM Dan

O'Brien spoke in favor. Expos GM Jim Bowden spoke against.

"I was the first one for it, back when the NFL went to replay about seven years ago. The first time it came up for a vote. I was the only one who voted for it," Bowden said. "But now, the umpires showed they can get it right. There are no egos anymore, with an umpire standing on his call."

Said O'Brien: "It's still unresolved." Along with the Rodriguez and Bellhorn plays, umpires reversed a ruling in Game 1 of the opening round between New York and Minnesota, taking away a home run from the Yankees' Ruben Sierra after his foul ball initially was called fair.

The only postseason play the umpires missed after a huddle came in Game 3 of the NL first-round series between St. Louis and Los Angeles.

Dodgers pitcher Jose Lima bunted, and the ball bounced off and hit his bat as he left the batter's box, meaning it should have been ruled a foul ball or he should have been called out. Instead, the play continued and Lima reached base when the Cardinals missed on a force play at second base.

Japan stars win third straight vs. MLB team

The Associated Press

NAGOYA, Japan — San Diego Padres reliever Akinori Otsuka returned to the stadium where he once pitched, and it did not go well.

He gave up two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning Friday, and the Japanese AL-Stars rallied for a 3-2 victory, their third straight victory over the touring major leaguers. The major league stars won the first four games of the eight-game series before the Japanese came back. The series ends Sunday in Tokyo.

"It's been tough," said Bruce Bochy, manager of the major leaguers. "There is no getting around it but both teams are in the same situation. I'm sure our guys are feeling it a bit right now."

Both teams looked sluggish, showing the effects of playing four straight games in four cities. Otsuka, who went 7-2 with two saves and 1.75 ERA for the Padres this season, used to play for the Chunichi Dragons at Nagoya Dome before signing with San Diego. He entered in the ninth with a one-run lead but failed to hold it and took the loss.

Osaka, Ivamura and the Yakult Swallows doubled to center off Otsuka to tie the game. Pinch-hitter Michihiro Ogasawara then singled down the third-base line to score Iwamura from second.

"I was surprised," Ogasawara said. "I haven't done much in this series so far so it was nice to come out with a big hit in that situation."

Japanese reliever Yukiya Yokoyama worked the eighth and got the victory.

The leaguers took a 2-0 lead on top of the seventh on back-to-back sacrifice flies by

MLB briefs

Johnny Estrada and Marcus Giles.

The Japanese scored their first run in the eighth when a single by pinch-hitter Atsuya Furuta scored Shigenobu Shimizu from second.

Jason Marquis of the St. Louis Cardinals looked set to record the victory after coming on in the third inning and striking out four while holding the Japanese to three hits over 5 1/3 innings.

Kazuhisa Ishii of the Los Angeles Dodgers started for the major leaguers and struck out three while giving up one hit over two scoreless innings. Koji Uehara of the Yomiuri Giants started for Japan and went five scoreless innings.

Third baseman Truby agrees to contract with Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Third baseman Chris Truby agreed Thursday to a one-year contract with the Kansas City Royals.

"He's a good defensive third baseman and will fit nicely into our plans for the 2005 season," Royals General Manager Al Baird said. "This will allow Mark Teahen to continue his development until he is ready to play at the big league level."

Kansas City acquired Teahen on June 24 in the trade that sent Carlos Beltran to Houston.

Truby, a minor league free agent signed with 41 doubles, 25 homers, 83 RBIs and 96 runs in 130 games last year with Nashville, Pittsburgh's Triple-A farm team.

Truby, 30, has played for Houston, Montreal, Detroit and Tampa Bay.

Yanks' Posada: past is past if Martinez comes to Bronx

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Forget the past. New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada would be happy to see Pedro Martinez in pinstripes.

"I don't have anything against Pedro if he's my teammate. The guy is a winner. He knows how to pitch," Posada said Thursday night during a charity event for manager Joe Torre's Safe at Home Foundation.

"I would not have a problem with him. We're gentlemen. We would be able to work things out. The same thing happened with Roger (Clemens)."

Perhaps it was Posada's pitch to owner George Steinbrenner that he find a way to sign Martinez, who filed for free agency after helping the Boston Red Sox win the World Series last month.

Such an agreement means a lot, especially considering the source and the recent history of the rivalry. Posada, a leader in the New York clubhouse, had a memorable run-in with Martinez during Game 3 of the 2003 AL Championship Series.

The Yankees were upset with Martinez when he threw a pitch behind Karim Garcia's head at Fenway Park. Posada was one of the most vocal and visibly angry players, coming out of the dugout to shout at Martinez, who yelled right back and pointed to his own head.

Afterward, the right-hander denied that the gesture meant he might throw at Posada's head.

When a brawl broke out later in the game, Martinez tossed then-Yankees bench coach Don Zimmer to the ground.



Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, above, has gotten under the skin of the New York Yankees and their fans, but that's not to say the team won't pursue the free agent right-hander during the offseason.

Posada would be willing to put all that behind him, he said.

And maybe the 33-year-old Martinez would be happy to pitch for the Yankees instead of leaving them. After all, his struggles against New York prompted him to call the Yankees his "daddy" late last season.

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, went 16-9 with a 3.90 ERA in 2004. He faltered against the Yankees in the ALCS but won his only World Series start, throwing seven shutout innings against the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 3.

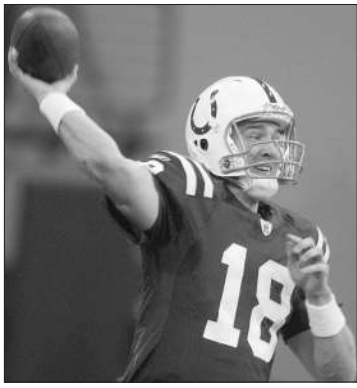
In need of pitching, the Yankees are looking to acquire at least one top starter this offseason,

perhaps Arizona ace Randy Johnson, but they are short on high-level prospects to offer in exchange.

"I can't control that," he said. "I don't want to be somewhere else. I consider myself a Yankee."

Another player who might be attractive to other teams is 28-year-old pitcher Javier Vazquez, who got off to a good start in his first season with the Yankees but struggled mightily in August and September.

"This is a learning experience for Javier," Posada said. "His best years are ahead of him. I would hate to see him go."



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning has completed nearly 70 percent of his passes in four games against the Houston Texans.

Texans' main focus: containing Manning

Colts' powerful offense has been particularly efficient vs. Houston

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Don't bother asking the Houston Texans how to slow down Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts.

They have never even come close.

"I don't think there's been a team in the league that has really stopped them," Texans coach Dom Capers said.

"They're an efficient operation, as good as there is."

Capers and the Texans will have another chance to stop Manning on Sunday in Indianapolis. Houston has had little luck in the teams' previous four meetings, allowing Manning to complete 68 percent of his passes for 951 yards and seven TDs with only one interception.

Things don't figure to get much easier for the Texans.

Manning had, statistically, the best first half of a season for a quarterback in league history. He leads the NFL in yards (2,429), touchdowns (26) and quarterback rating (121.4), and has tossed only four interceptions.

His 26 touchdown passes are just three short of last season's MVP-winning total (29) and put him on pace to challenge Dan Marino's league record of 48.

Making Manning even more potent is his wealth of offensive options.

Tailback Edgerrin James is only 209 yards short of his fourth 1,000-yard season in six years, and appears to have completely

recovered from knee and ankle injuries that hobbled him the past two years. Three players have at least 35 catches. James has 28 and tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark also have been reliable options.

"We have quite a number of weapons," Manning said. "I'm really proud of the work we've put in together."

With that many talented offensive players running all over the field, Houston would like to be able to shut down at least one of them.

"You've got to take one of them away," Texans defensive end Gary Walker said. "We've got our work cut out for us."

The Texans will counter with a secondary that gave up plenty of big plays in a lopsided loss in Denver last week and ranks 25th overall in pass defense. Houston probably will start two rookies, cornerback Dunta Robinson and strong safety Glenn Earl.

"I don't think you can blame the Colts if they think they have the advantage going into any game," nose tackle Seth Payne said. "They've got to be confident no matter who they're going against."

Houston's best chance is simply to keep the Colts' explosive offense off the field.

"We have to take advantage of every opportunity," quarterback David Carr said. "If we don't come out and do that, then we don't have a chance. It's going to be an uphill battle, so we have to score every time we get the ball."

Browns to honor Steinbrunner; former player killed in Vietnam

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns will pay tribute Sunday to a former player who died in the Vietnam War and has gone unrecognized by the NFL for decades.

It has long been reported that Bob Kalsi, a Buffalo Bills lineman, was the only former NFL player killed in Vietnam.

But it recently came to the attention of the Pro Football Hall of Fame that Air Force Maj. Don Steinbrunner, a rookie offensive tackle with the Browns in 1953, died in Vietnam in 1967.

Steinbrunner, who joined the Air Force ROTC while at Washington State, was called to active duty after his rookie season. After a two-year tour as a navigator, he decided not to return to the Browns.

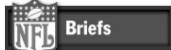
He remained in the Air Force for 13 years and spent four seasons as an assistant coach at the Air Force Academy.

He began his tour of duty in Vietnam in 1966. As a navigator with the 12th Air Command Squadron, he was shot down over Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

The Browns are asking all military veterans to come to Sunday's game against Pittsburgh in uniform.

Steinbrunner will be represented at the game by his widow, Meredyth, and their three children.

"I cannot explain to you what a thrill this is for me and my family," Meredyth said. "We are so



honored to have this wonderful event in honor of Don."

McNair limited to one drill

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair only took part in a seven-on-seven drill Thursday, but coach Jeff Fisher is hoping the quarterback can do some more work Friday.

"He is a little better," Fisher said. "He was a little sore this morning from what he did yesterday, but he loosened up in the training room and he got out and moved around and threw the ball."

McNair still has soreness after bruising his chest twice in five games, the latest on a hit on Oct. 24 in a loss to Minnesota.

Fisher said he would like to pick up the work on Friday, but that the practice will have to be divided differently as the Titans get closer to Sunday's game with Chicago.

Running back Chris Brown said he didn't practice, but Fisher said he hopes he might work Friday. Brown has not practiced since hurting his left big toe in the same game that McNair was hurt.

Bears QB Krenzler gets in full practice, ready to go

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Craig Krenzler practiced Thursday and is set to play Sunday against Tennessee despite bruised ribs.

Cost of Athens Games \$11.6 billion

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The final cost of the Athens Olympics soared to about \$11.6 billion — at least \$1.1 billion more than originally estimated.

The figure did not include transportation projects such as the new tram line, suburban rail network and extension of the Athens metro system to the airport, Pifanos Minister Giorgos Alagoukoulis said Friday.

"The Olympic Games were an investment, but the Greek people should know how much they have cost," he said.

The previous socialist government, which lost to the conservatives in March elections, had placed the cost of the Aug. 13-29 Olympics and Paralympics that followed in September at \$9.9 billion. The budget of the organizing committee, which was managed as a separate company and had a separate budget of nearly \$2.6 billion, would have brought that total up to about \$8.51 billion.

Mauroes continues quest for No. 1 in WTA Championships

LOS ANGELES — Amelie Mauresmo scored a record seven 6-1, 6-0 in 54 minutes in the WTA Championships on Thursday night, extending her winning

Sports briefs

streak to nine matches as the Frenchwoman tries to overtake Lindsay Davenport for the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova hit 23 winners in a 6-1, 6-4 victory over U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Mauresmo struggled for the second straight match, beating Elena Dementieva 7-6 (7-3), 7-5. Tied 5-1 in the second set, Williams broke Dementieva's serve with two solid forehand volleys and then served out the match when the Russian's forehand sailed long.

Mauresmo spent five weeks in the No. 1 spot after the U.S. Open before her injury gave Davenport a walkover victory in Germany. Williams allowed the American to overtake Mauresmo, and Davenport could stay there if she reaches the final Monday night.

MetroStars midfielder Guervara chosen MLS MVP

ANAHEIM, Calif. — MetroStars midfielder Amado Guervara was chosen Major League Soccer's most valuable player on Thursday.

Guervara, who helped his team

"As I said yesterday, I feel like he would be OK," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "He was a little sore yesterday. I feel good always seeing our quarterbacks complete passes."

Krenzler, a fifth-round draft pick out of Ohio State, has won his first two starts.

Smith said he's also hoping to have running back Thomas Jones back. Jones injured his toe two games ago.

"Right now, we're trying to get him back to a position where he can be sure play," Smith said. "He practiced, but we're still monitoring how he really feels. He's not 100 percent right now."

Anthony Thomas will start if Jones can't go.

Vikings WR Moss officially out for Green Bay game

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — If Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice was playing mind games with the Green Bay Packers about the availability of Randy Moss, he ended them Thursday.

The Vikings officially downgraded the All-Pro receiver from doubtful to out for Sunday's game at Green Bay, a day after Packers coaches and players expressed doubt that Moss would actually sit out the key NFC North matchup.

Moss, who hadn't missed a game in his seven-year career until Monday's 31-28 loss at Indianapolis, strained his right hamstring Oct. 17. He hobbled through 11 plays in two token starts before agreeing to undergo an MRI exam and begin rehabilitation last week.

to a second straight playoff appearance, led the MetroStars in assists (10) and points (30), while rising for the team lead in goals (10) during his second season in the league.

He also tied New England Revolution forward Pat Noonan for the league's scoring championship.

Park shares lead in LPGFA's Tournament of Champions

MOBILE, Ala. — Grace Park got her season off to a big start with a breakthrough victory in the Kraft Nabisco. She's finishing quite well, too.

Coming off a victory two weeks ago in South Korea and three runner-up finishes, Park birdied the final three holes Thursday for a 6-under 66 and a share of the first-round lead in the LPGFA Tour's Tournament of Champions.

Juli Inkster, Laura Diaz and Christina Kim also opened with 66s on Magnolia Grove's rain-soaked Oct. 17. The 2003 Champions Tour, nursing tendinitis in her left elbow, shot a 67, and Lorena Ochoa, Rachel Tejada and Wendy Dool had 68s.

Annika Sorenstam, the winner last week in Japan, is skipping the tournament to rest for the season's final PGA Championship next week in West Palm Beach, Fla.

More mature Busch looking forward to Darlington

By MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

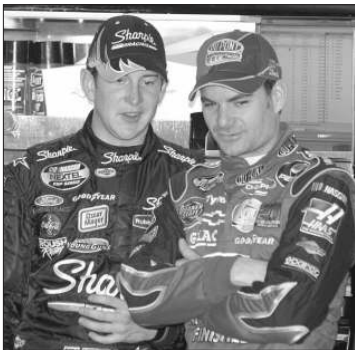
DARLINGTON, S.C. — Presure is just a word to Kurt Busch. The Nextel Cup points leader is relaxed and relying on the experience and knowledge acquired in four years on NASCAR's top series to carry him to his first series title.

"That's something that I noticed back in 2002 when we had a championship run put together, that I lacked some of the leadership skills," Busch said.

He won three of the last five races that season, but wound up a distant third in the driver standings behind Tony Stewart and Roush Racing teammate Mark Martin.

"I wasn't what you could call a cheerleader, helping motivate the guys after a bad day or even a bad pit stop, and not knowing my role 100 percent," Busch said. "With this change, understanding the new point structure, having more years of development, learning from (crew chief) Jimmy Fenig and experiencing the mistakes that I've made in the past, it's helped me be a better person and play more of a quarterback role."

The more mature 26-year-old Busch has put it all together in the first eight races of NASCAR's new 10-man, 10-race Chase for the Cup championship. Heading into the Southern 500 on Sunday



Kurt Busch, left, leads four-time series champion Jeff Gordon, right, by 41 points with two races remaining in the Nextel Cup season.

at Darlington Raceway, Busch has top-10 finishes in seven of the eight races and leads a tight four-man title battle.

He goes into the penultimate race of the season 41 points ahead of four-time champion and

six-time Darlington winner Jeff Gordon, 47 in front of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and 48 ahead of Jimmie Johnson.

Martin, a four-time series runner-up, remains a long shot, trailing the leader by 102 points.

Although he hasn't been this close to a Cup championship before, Busch does have experience racing for a title.

He won the championship in 1999 in NASCAR's Southwest Series, then finished second in the Craftsman Truck series before moving up to Cup.

It looked for a while like Busch would run off and hide in the Chase, starting with a victory at New Hampshire and adding finishes of no worse than sixth in the next five races. But an engine failure in Atlanta and a 10th-place run Sunday in Phoenix brought him back to the field.

Still, Busch remains very calm and focused heading into Darlington, saying the pressure is on the other drivers to catch him.

"That's experience," he said. "I'm just trying to keep an even keel on everything, the way I approach it. You don't want to get too excited about things, but yet you have to stay on top of the wheel for the entire race."

Gordon, who has been through the intense pressure of championship battles many times, isn't going to wait around for Busch to make a mistake or have another problem.

"We're second in the points with only two races left, so we need to be aggressive," Gordon said. "The pressure will keep building and it will become more intense. This is one track where

you'd better block all that out.

"If you don't, this track will bite you in a second."

NASCAR's oldest superspeedway remains one of the toughest on the circuit with its tight, 1.366-mile, egg-shaped oval made even narrower by the installation last year of energy absorbing SAFER barriers.

Making it even tougher this week is that the race will start in daylight and finish under the lights for the first time.

"We were able to run some laps at night during an exhibition here in August," Gordon said. "It will be interesting to see how the setting sun affects driver vision during the closing stages of the race, and how shadows from the wall affect depth perception."

"Day or night, though, one thing doesn't change. You must respect the track."

Busch is looking forward to the challenge.

"That'll be another fun element to add into Darlington, knowing that you're always on the ragged edge already, and then we'll probably spend two or maybe three hours starting at the sun going down the back straightaway," he said. "There are going to be so many new and unique elements that I'm really looking forward to the race and being able to adapt to all of those changes and being the first guy that adapts to it the best."

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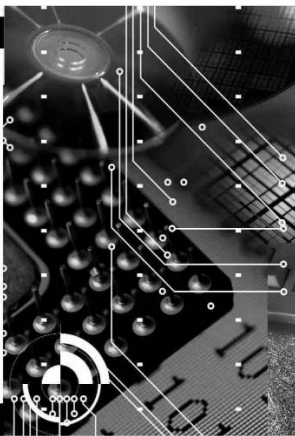
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**Now Accepting
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Session.**

Seminoles slog to ugly win

Punts outnumber first downs in 17-10 triumph

BY KEITH PARSONS
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Lorenzo Booker broke through the middle and picked up 14 yards. He came up 4 yards short of a first down on the run late in the second quarter, but it finally gave Florida State more yards than plays.

It was that kind of night against what Booker called the best defense he has faced this season.

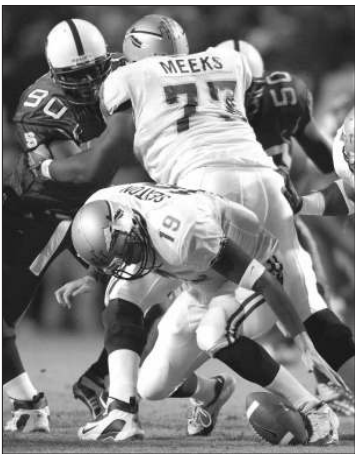
"Better than Miami's," better than Virginia's," Booker said. "I say that because they were everywhere. It was like you break a tackle or get outside, and there are three more guys coming."

He and James Coleman each ran for third-quarter touchdowns, helping the 11th-ranked Seminoles rally past North Carolina State 17-10 Thursday night in a game that featured 22 punts, four turnovers and less than 250 yards of combined offense.

The Seminoles (9-2, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) went into the second quarter before Booker's run gave them 38 yards on 30 plays. Florida State finished 9-for-18 for only 73 yards, and leading rusher Leon Washington was held to 56 yards on 18 carries after missing the previous two games with a shoulder injury.

The only thing that kept Sexton on the field was an injury to back-up Chris Rix, who had a sore ankle and likely would have had a tough time evading the pressure.

"If Chris had his wheels, I probably definitely would have (changed quarterbacks)," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said.



Florida State quarterback Wyatt Sexton (19) fumbles the snap Thursday night at Raleigh, N.C. The teams combined for 234 total yards.

"Because we were getting sacked so much, I feel like we've got to have a quarterback that can move around."

Still, it was enough. The lone touchdown for the Wolfpack (4-6, 3-5) came on Darrell Blackman's 87-yard punt return in the second quarter that gave them a 10-0 lead. But even though they rotated quarterbacks, they couldn't generate offense after halftime.

They had only one first down — fittingly, on a pass-interference penalty — and 26 yards in the final two periods. Jay Davis and Marcus Stone were a combined 9-for-25 for 100 yards as former N.C. State star quarterback Philip Rivers watched from the sideline.

Boston Red Sox outfielder Trot Nixon, whose wife attended N.C. State, joined Rivers, but even he couldn't provide the necessary

karma to help the Wolfpack. They won't be going to a bowl for the first time in five seasons under coach Chuck Amato.

"Things happen for a reason, and we'll learn from this and improve," he said. "I'm proud of our kids for being in that game and being in a position to win at the end."

After spending the entire first half on its own side of midfield, Florida State started all five of its drives in the third quarter in N.C. State's territory. Coleman capped the first one with a 1-yard plunge to make it 10-7, and after a three-and-out by the Wolfpack, FSU needed to drive only 35 yards for the go-ahead score.

Sexton completed a 25-yard pass to Booker on third and 6 to set up first and goal, and a play later, Booker raced in from the 4 to give Florida State a 14-10 lead.

See Summary on Page 24.

Unrest: Paterno's legacy marred by losing trend

UNREST, FROM BACK PAGE

"I think he'll never step down," said former Penn State defensive end Michael Haynes, 87, who was the Chicago Bears. "Right now we're having some issues, but it's still all fixable."

A bronze statue of Paterno greets visitors to Beaver Stadium.

There he is, looking spry, pointing toward the sky with his jacket flung open and the whipped around as if hit with the wind of another brisk football Saturday.

Engraved near a wall of plaques to the left of the statue is a Paterno quote: "They asked me what I'd like to write about me when I'm gone. I hoped they write I've made Penn State a better place, not just that I was a good football coach."

Those stories will certainly be written one day. But JoePa most certainly can't like what's being written now.

One alumnus paid \$350 to take out a half-page ad in the student newspaper's gameday edition which read: "The talent's there. The coaching is an abomination."

TIME FOR JOE TO GO?

"All I was trying to do was focus some of the dissent I'm hearing all over the place in a way people can see it and read it readily," said Joseph Koresk, who said he's been to every home game since 1967 except for a three-year stint in Ohio. "A few have said it was too harsh, but the vast majority think it's time for a change. A lot of people have been more forgiving and say he should go out on his own terms. Whatever goodwill he's generated ran out at the end of the '02 season."

The stadium holds over 100,000 people — a small city, really — and they want results or a new leader.

Penn State athletic director Tim Curley, who gave Paterno the extension before the season, did not return repeated phone calls for comment. However, students are beginning to speak out.

"I think we need a new coach, but I don't think we can fire him,"

senior David Benson said. "He's done so much for the university. But we need a change."

A recent column in the student newspaper even suggested — gasp! — that Paterno is being selfish by staying.

"This season is simply about him proving to himself that he can do what he could 20 years ago. There doesn't seem to be a great concern for others," wrote junior Wade Malcom.

Paterno said he receives support from fans and former players who call and write him letters.

And so far, he has shown he can sit tight. His latest class was rated among the nation's top 20 by most analysts.

Still, the losing has affected his confidence.

"Yeah, I get shaky once in a while," Paterno said. "I would be less than honest if I told you I didn't. That doesn't mean that I lose faith."

Junior guard Charles Rush said Paterno tries to maintain a family atmosphere to keep the team close.

"I wouldn't have expected to go through these losing seasons like I have," Rush said. "For the football aspect, it's been kind of bad."

Paterno publicly protects his players and assistant coaches from criticism, focusing on how everything would have been different but for a play here, a play there.

His supporters worry an unwelcome footnote to the story around too long — is being added to JoePa's legacy.

"If he can't be remembered for his greatness, not only is it sad, it's disastrous," former Penn State broadcaster Fran Fisher said. "It's disturbing to me to see some of the people I've talked to not be more understanding."

Paterno says he's still coaching because he doesn't want to leave the team when it's down.

"I have never gotten into this thing for the glory or anything like that. I've been here 30 years. I don't need to take another trip around the track."

Auburn plays title-elimination game vs. Georgia

BY JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — A victory by third-ranked Auburn over No. 8 Georgia would leave the Tigers in strong position to challenge for the national championship.

So, Auburn is approaching the matchup at Saturday's Jordan-Hare Stadium as if it were a bowl game. The Tigers haven't made a serious run at the title since they beat Michigan in the 1984 Sugar Bowl.

"The national championship was in play in that game," said longtime Auburn athletic director David Houder.

It's in play again. The Tigers (9-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) are hoping for a happier ending this time. Despite a 9-7 victory in the Sugar Bowl over Michi-



Auburn's Jason Campbell leads the SEC in passer rating (172.8).

gan, Auburn was leapfrogged by fourth-ranked Miami after the top two teams lost their bowl games.

But Auburn is faced with the reality that even an SEC title and a perfect season would make the Tigers nothing more than spectators watching top-ranked Southern California and No. 2 Oklahoma duke it out for the national championship in the Orange Bowl.

That detracts little from the Georgia game, clearly one of the biggest ever here because of the high stakes.

"It's going to be crazy and I'm ready for it," defensive end Stanley McClover said.

The game is big for the Bulldogs (8-1, 6-1) as well.

They are still in contention to play Auburn in the SEC championship game if they win their final two games and Tennessee loses to either Vanderbilt or Kentucky.

A win also would be a big boost

to Georgia's hopes of making a Bowl Championship Series game. A loss ends that chance.

"This is the biggest game of the year," Georgia defensive end David Pollack said. "It is the next game. It's obvious when it is at stake for both teams in the BCS, the national championship picture and in the SEC. There is a lot of luggage in this game."

Georgia coach Mark Richt isn't sure if the Bulldogs' big game, but he knows what it means for the Tigers.

"To me, Auburn's got a lot more riding on it," Richt said. "They have a legitimate shot to play in the national championship if they win it."

"If we win it, we may not even play in the SEC championship game. But it's still very big for us."

They're playing for possibilities, and they're playing for more real, tangible things."

It's hard to tell if that pressure is an advantage or disadvantage for Auburn, which beat Tennessee and LSU in its only other games against ranked teams.

But neither of those games approached this magnitude, as a program gunning for its first SEC title since 1989. Auburn won its only national championship in 1957.

This is only the 12th time the top 10 teams have squared off in Auburn. The Tigers are 4-6-1 in such games, including a 23-0 loss to Southern California in last year's opener.

This game also is reminiscent of the 1983 showdown, when third-ranked Auburn beat No. 4 Georgia 37-9 in Athens after winning two straight games against top-10 teams at home.

man missing

Mississippi St. struggles in opener without Roberts

The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury wouldn't use the absence of Lawrence Roberts as an excuse for the 12th-ranked Bulldogs' chivalrous defeat at Fairfield on Thursday night in the opening round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

"It's very obvious that we're not quite as good as we were without Lawrence Roberts," Stansbury said after Mississippi State survived a scare with a 53-49 victory over the Stags. "But we knew coming into this game that we didn't have him, so we can't make any excuse."

Roberts, a senior All-American forward and last year's Southeastern Conference player of the year, sat out a one-game suspension from the NCAA for accepting equipment in return for a spot before the NBA draft. He subsequently repaid the money.

Reserve Ontario Harper scored 17 points for the Bulldogs, who trailed by as many as eight points in the first half.

Mississippi State will play Birmingham-Southern in the second round of the 16-team event on Friday night. Birmingham-Southern beat Alabama A&M 79-69 on Thursday.

Winsome Frazier and Gary Ervin hit consecutive three-pointers to give the Bulldogs a 47-39 lead with 1:44 to play. Frazier and Ervin both finished with nine points.

Fairfield got within three points in the closing seconds, but Harper made one of two free throws with 3 seconds left for the final margin.

"Even without Roberts, Mississippi State is a really, really good team," Fairfield coach Tim O'Toole said. "We tried to play a perfect game and slow it down, but

they beat us on the boards and made us shoot poorly."

Deng Gai had 14 points and eight rebounds for Fairfield.

Mississippi State missed its first eight shots and shot just 28 percent in the first half, including 1-of-8 from three-point range, as Fairfield took a 24-16 lead 90 seconds before halftime. The Bulldogs cut it to 24-20 at the break.

Birmingham-Southern 79, Alabama A&M 69: Jakob Sigurdson scored 24 points and Thomas Vigilante had 11 points and 16 rebounds for Birmingham-Southern, which shot 60 percent from the field in the first half in taking a 47-30 lead.

James Collins and Augustinas Vitcas each scored 11 points for Birmingham-Southern.

Obie Trotter had 13 points for Alabama A&M, Galer Gardenhain, Marcus Jones and Chris Collins each scored 11 and Joe Martin had 10.



AP

Mississippi State's Dietric Slater (22) protects the ball against the defensive effort of Fairfield's Tyquan Gooze during Thursday night's game in Birmingham, Ala.

Syracuse throttles Northern Colorado

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Hakim Warrick had 19 points, 10 rebounds and five assists to lead No. 6 Syracuse to a 104-54 victory over Northern Colorado on Thursday night in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

The Orange scored the first 24 points of the game against Northern Colorado, in only its second season back in Division I.

Gerry McNamara, who finished with 11 points and five assists, hit two straight three-pointers and a fast-break layup and Warrick, a preseason All-America, had six points to pace Syracuse's early surge.

"One of their players came out there and asked me, 'Are you guys going to miss a shot?'" said Warrick, who had 19 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and four blocks. "We all came out there fired-up."

Sean Teabi had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Bears, who shot 25.4 percent for the game.

Syracuse will play Princeton Friday night in the second round of the 16-team, four-site tournament that officially opens the college basketball season. The final



AP

Syracuse's Craig Forth, top, battles Northern Colorado's Erik Olson for the ball during the first half Thursday night in Syracuse.

four teams advance to Madison Square Garden in New York next week for the semifinals and championship game.

Princeton 61, Bucknell 48: At Syracuse, the Tigers got 21 points from Luke Owings, including 16 points and three three-pointers in the first half.

John Griffin had 18 points for Bucknell, which shot only 30.4 percent for the game.



No. 24 Memphis 102, Savannah St. 40: At Memphis, Tenn., Rodney Carney scored 21 points and the Tigers had six players score in double figures.

Carney was 7-of-12 from the field, including 3-of-5 from three-point range, for the Tigers (1-0), who face a second-round game Saturday night against Georgia Mason.

Josh Barker led Savannah State with 12 points.

George Mason 69, IUPUI-Fort Wayne 51: At Memphis, Lamar Butler scored 16 points to lead five George Mason players in double figures.

Butler was 6-of-13 from the field as George Mason built a 21-point halftime lead and the margin never got below double figures in the second half.

Jai Lewis finished with 12 points and eight rebounds for George Mason, John Vaughan and Tim Burns each scored 11 and Gabe Norwood added 10.

California 78, UC Riverside 61: At Berkeley, Calif., reserve

David Paris had career highs of 16 points and eight rebounds for Cal. Paris, a 6-foot-8 junior, had scored seven points three times and had a career scoring average of 1.6 points entering this season. He made five of seven shots from the floor, 6-for-6 at the free throw line, passed for four assists, and was a bright spot inside for the Golden Bears with injured star Leon Powe on the sideline in knee clothes. Powe, last year's Pac-10 freshman of the year, is expected to miss the season because of a knee operation.

Larry Cunningham had 18 points to lead UC Riverside.

Cal will play Friday night against Saint Mary's.

Saint Mary's 67, Belmont 58: At Berkeley, Calif., Jonathan Sanders scored 17 points and Daniel Kickert had 16 points, a career-high 13 rebounds and three blocks for the Gaels, who overcame an ugly first half and the absence of two key players.

Paul Marigney, the Gaels' top returner and the West Coast Conference's top scorer, is academically ineligible and will miss at least the first seven games. Senior forward Frederic Adjijawu will miss the first four games before becoming eligible.

complete a review of the suit.

In a letter to O'Brien in June, Geiger said the coach's alleged payment to the player constituted a violation of NCAA rules. Geiger wrote that O'Brien breached his contract by violating NCAA rules and then failing to report the violation to the collegiate athletics governing body.

O'Brien's firing came with five years left on a contract that paid him \$864,000 a year.

Connecticut routs Bryant; Arizona rolls vs. Sonoma St.

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Josh Boone scored 20 points to lead No. 8 Connecticut to a 90-65 victory over Division II Bryant in an exhibition game Thursday night.

The 6-foot-10 Boone, who also had eight rebounds and five blocked shots, has been slowed by injuries, including the effects of offseason knee surgery. Charles Villanueva added 13 points and 10 rebounds for defending national champion Connecticut.

John Williams scored 21 points and Collier McCarthy added 19 for Bryant.

Connecticut, held to a 9-9 tie,

went on a 20-5 halftime lead. Boone took command and led 51-34 at halftime. The Huskies pulled ahead

64-39 after a hook shot by Boone with 16:25 remaining and posted their biggest advantage at 90-63 following a steal and layup by walk-on Sami Ameiziane.

The Huskies kept the season at home Nov. 20 against Buffalo.

No. 10 Arizona 105, Sonoma St. 80: At Tucson, Ariz., Channing Frye scored 24 points and Mustafa Shakur added 22 points and 10 rebounds for Arizona. Frye had 13 points in the Wildcatters' 17-6 run in the second half that made it 69-47 with 15:54 remaining.

Sonoma State was within 51-41 at halftime but shot only 48 percent from the field. Frye scored the first nine points of the second half with a dunk, two short jumpers and a three-point play.

Hassan Adams finished with 19 points for Arizona and Ivan Radeonovic had 18.

Ryan Hensel scored 13 points for Sonoma State and Vince Inglisha had 12.

UCLA 80, Monterey Tech 48: At Los Angeles, Arroyo Affonso scored 17 points, one of four players to score in double figures for UCLA in the exhibition game. UCLA outscored Monterey Tech 18-6 over the final six minutes of the first half to take a 41-25 lead and pushed the margin to as much as 78-42 after halftime.

Arizona St. 93, Alberta-Edmonton 47: At Tempe, Ariz., Ike Diodi scored 26 points for the Sun Devils, including 17 in the first half of the exhibition game.

Diodi made 10 of 15 shots and also led Arizona State with seven rebounds.

Arizona State rode a 20-0 run, including the first 11 points of the second half, to build a 53-26 advantage.

Kansas State 88, Pittsburg St. 69: At Manhattan, Kan., Fred Peete scored 20 points as Kansas State beat Division II Pittsburg State.

Jeremiah Massey had 17 points and nine rebounds for Kansas State and Marques Hayden, who missed the Wildcats' other exhibition game, had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

O'Brien sues Ohio State for damages over firing

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Former Ohio State basketball coach Jim O'Brien sued the school, claiming he is owed at least \$3.4 million because his firing violated terms of his contract.

O'Brien was fired in June after another director, Andy Geiger, said the coach admitted paying \$6,000 to a former recruit. O'Brien claims in the lawsuit

filed Wednesday that the school owes him money because the NCAA didn't find he broke the association's rules.

Joseph F. Murray, O'Brien's lawyer, said Thursday that the coach's contract with Ohio State provided for a narrow set of circumstances under which he could be fired without pay.

One such circumstance would be if the NCAA launched a

"major infraction investigation" and sanctioned the school, the lawsuit said. Since the NCAA has done neither, Murray argued that the school owes O'Brien damages.

Ohio State's athletic department filed a statement Thursday night that it "opened well within its authority" in firing O'Brien. The university declined further comment until its lawyers

SPORTS



Closing in on his first
Nextel Cup, relaxed Busch
is enjoying the ride, Page 27

Unrest in Happy Valley

Another losing season at Penn State elicits calls of 'Joe must go'

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The coaching legacy and goodwill that Joe Paterno proudly built for five decades at Penn State are slowly unraveling with each humbling loss.

The days of scanning the schedule for gimme victories are over — just ask Big Ten foes Purdue and Northwestern, which this season got their first victories in Happy Valley.

Paterno hardly needs his thick, smoky glasses to see he's losing more than games: Thousands of seats at Beaver Stadium have been empty for recent home games, and Paterno is no longer impervious to the criticism routinely reserved for coaches with lesser pedigrees or without repu-

tations as community patriots.

The message is clear — and getting louder — from the grumbling dissenters: Joe must go.

The situation has become sensitive. A Pittsburgh radio station admitted Thursday to starting a rumor that Paterno had retired, yet Penn State still issued an official response.

"Statements made on a Pittsburgh radio station earlier today regarding the future of Penn State football coach Joe Paterno are unfounded and untrue," the statement said.

Paterno, whose 341-116-3 record puts him second in career victories in Division I-A behind only Florida State's Bobby Bowden, is listening. Just don't expect him to decide his future based on the whims of fickle fans.

"If you think that I am going to back out of it because I am intimidated, you are wrong. If you think I am going to stay when I think I am not doing a good job, you're wrong," he said. "Those things have to develop, they have

to evolve. Right now, I think we can get this thing done and do a good job."

The numbers give little reason for hope.

The Nittany Lions (2-7, 0-6) are the only Big Ten team without a conference victory entering Saturday's game at Indiana. They have lost six consecutive games, including a school record-tying three straight at home.

Penn State has four losing seasons in the past five years and the senior class will leave having played in only one bowl game.

When asked about his future, the 77-year-old Paterno often turns cantankerous, using his 55 years on the staff

as a sense of entitlement to dismiss his critics.

His determination (or stubbornness), his unyielding belief (or hope), and his four-year contract that will keep him on the school's payroll past his 80th birthday give little reason to expect anyone but the coach affectionately known as JoePa will be on the sideline next year.

"I am looking to get this program back to where it belongs and if I can't get it done in a certain amount of time, I have to sit back and say, 'Hey, turn it over to some other guy and can I help?' That is the way it will be," he said.

And that time is?

"I haven't got the slightest idea," he said. "I don't see any reason to say, 'I'm going to get out of here this year, next year or what year.' I don't mean that to be cocky, stubborn or anything like that. I am just trying to do what is right."

What to do with the fading coach seems to be tearing at the conscience of the Penn State community. Has Paterno, who's donated millions to the school in addition to his football success, earned the right to decide his own fate? Or should university officials give him a nudge out the door?

SEE UNREST ON PAGE 28

Diminishing returns

Joe Paterno has won 341 games in Division I-A, the second most of any football coach. But his teams have been in a downward spiral lately. Here are the results of the past 10 Penn State seasons, with final AP Top 25 ranking in parentheses.

2004	2-7
2003	3-8
2002	9-4 (15)
2001	5-6
2000	5-7
1999	10-3 (11)
1998	9-3 (17)
1997	9-3 (16)
1996	11-2 (7)
1995	9-3 (13)

Joe Paterno's Nittany Lions are the only Big Ten team without a conference victory this season.

AP



No. 11 Florida St. beats N.C. State in a display of offensive futility

Page 28



Mississippi State gets a scare from Fairfield as basketball season starts on campus

Page 31



Nowitzki's 41 points help Mavs hand Shaq his first loss with the Heat

Page 30

Instant replay gets lukewarm response from baseball's GMs Page 25